The National Future Farmer

April–May, 1988

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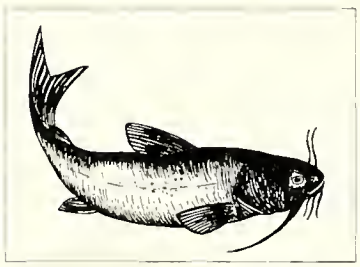

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The Bottom Line

One of FFA's greatest strengths has always been the fact that when school is out in the spring, FFA goes on.

Vocational agriculture and FFA has traditionally been a 12-month program. FFA activities and supervised occupational experience programs go on during the summer and the vocational agriculture teacher remains on the job all summer to work with students in their school district.

How will you spend your summer?

You may want to approach your summer planning in two ways: what you plan to do yourself and what activities you would like to see your chapter conduct.

If you are an entrepreneur, your plans may be made for you. Managing your own livestock enterprise, field crops, roadside market or related agricultural operation can keep you busy. Some of you will no doubt have jobs on neighboring farms or in an agricultural business.

If you have the time, you may want to sharpen your leadership skills. Your advisor can help you find out what is available in your state. Some of the choices include your state convention, state camps and related events. At the national level, there are the Work Experience Abroad and the Washington Leadership Conferences.

Summertime chapter activities are very important. Chapter meetings on a regular basis will help members keep in touch and make for a stronger chapter. It is also a good time for community development projects and recreational activities. Camping trips, fishing trips, tours, field days with other youth groups—the list can be as long as your chapter wants to make it. Have a great summer!

Wilson Carnes

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News In Brief

FFA Board Meets

The National FFA Board of Directors met at the FFA Center January 25-28. Here are highlights of actions taken by the Board:

- The Board received a draft of an updated FFA Constitution from the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. No action will be taken on the constitution until state associations have had time to review the draft. The Board will form their specific recommendations on updating the constitution at the July Board meeting. Those recommendations will be presented to delegates at this year's national convention.
- Three new agrimarketing programs were passed by the Board, but will not be implemented until the National FFA Foundation has secured a sponsor to fund each program. The three programs would highlight skills in sales, commodity marketing through the use of computer simulations and implementing a chapter marketing campaign.
- Registration fees for the 1988 National FFA Convention were set at $18.
- The new FFA silk necktie has been added to the current neckties designated as official dress. The silk necktie is offered for sale through the FFA Supply Service.

Gatlin Promotes FFA

FFA members will recognize the familiar voice of country singer Larry Gatlin promoting FFA on the airwaves this year. Gatlin is featured in radio and print public service announcements for FFA which were distributed shortly before FFA Week in February. Gatlin has a strong interest in the FFA and has visited a number of state FFA conventions speaking to thousands of members. He also introduced this year's theme show "America, We Are the FFA."

The PSAs were sponsored by the Monsanto Agricultural Company. Gatlin's location and travel expenses were sponsored by American Group Sales. He is pictured here with members from the Katy, Texas, FFA Chapter.

Puerto Rico Exchange

This summer FFA members from Puerto Rico and "continental" United States have the opportunity to participate in a direct "family to family" exchange.

The Puerto Rican participants will arrive on the U.S. mainland June 15 and will stay until July 14th. During their month's stay, they will experience U.S. mainland life with their FFA host family. In the second phase of the exchange, the FFA members serving as host to the Puerto Ricans will then travel with their new "brother/sister" to experience FFA in the tropics. Instead of ranching, they may live on banana or coffee plantations, learn the FFA motto in Spanish and still be home by August 11.

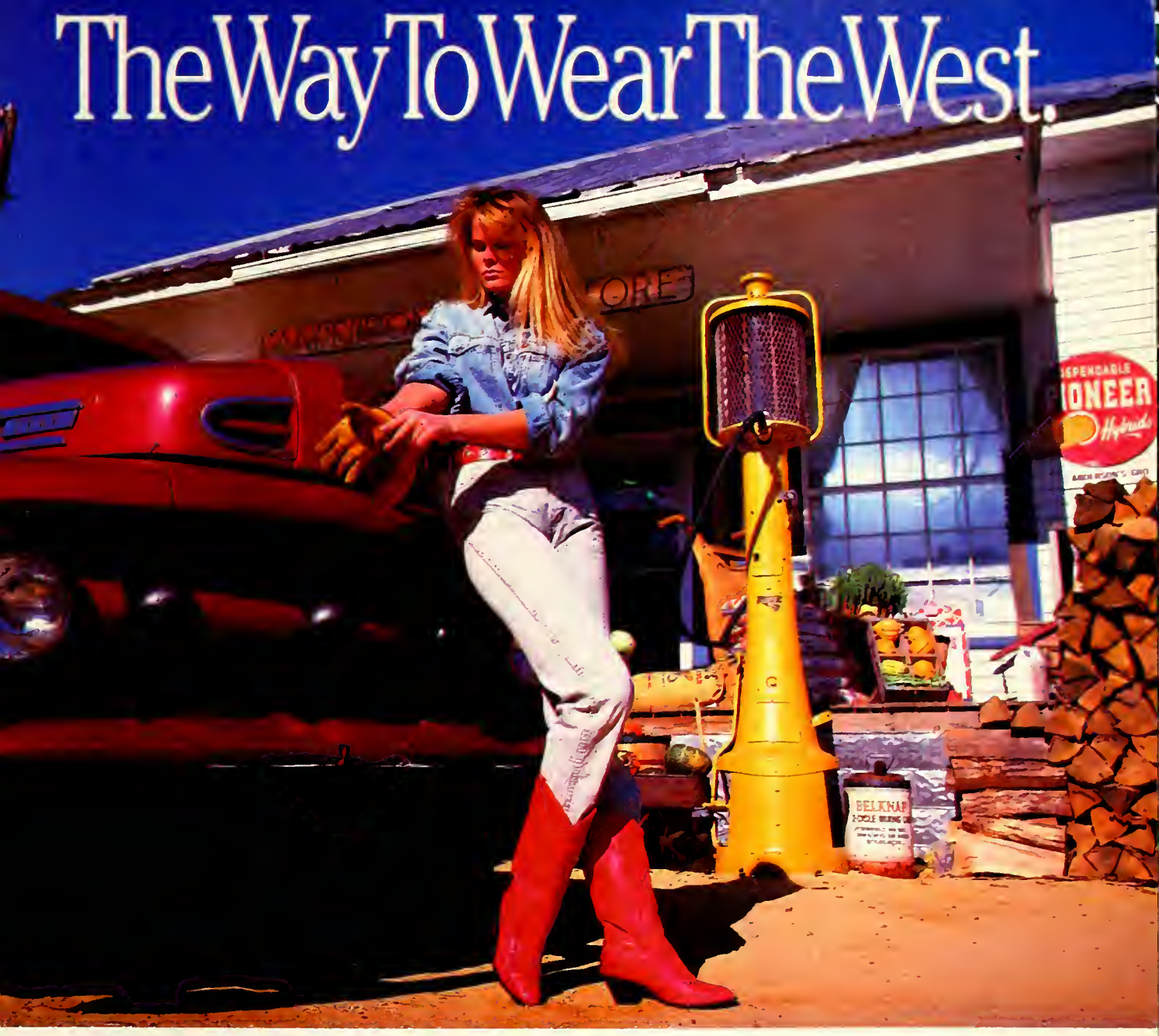
For applications and more information, contact Melanie Burgess of the International Department at the National FFA Center (703) 360-3600, ext. 239.

New FFA, Agricultual Computer Graphics

Two new lines of computer "clip art" featuring FFA, agriculture and the Food for America program are available through the Supply Service's ACCESS department.

The graphics software was developed by Camcom Software, which is headed by 1985 Computers in Agriculture winner Steve Cameron. The first line of clip art features 22 different disks that includes a full range of FFA and agricultural graphics. Camcom has also developed a Food for America computerized coloring book that allows chapters to customize a coloring book for their area. The coloring book and clip art software are available for the Apple II, II+, IIe, IIc, and IIgs. The clip art is also available for the Apple Macintosh 512, Plus and SE.

The Way To Wear The West.



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Mailbag

Dedication Pays Off

I just finished reading the article "A Gentleman and a Scholar" (February-March, 1988). It told about a young man who never gave up, for he was dedicated and through his dedication, he received a large FFA scholarship.

Cortez Wiley
Calvert, Alabama

From Far Away

I am involved in agriculture activities and it came to my attention that your organization publishes a magazine that may be of interest to me. Please advise me how I can subscribe.

Ted Iatropoulos
Athens, Greece

Appreciated Information

I really appreciate the article on the Melba, Idaho, Chapter. I had met the Idaho Farm Business Management team at the convention. When I heard of the crash, I was grieved to learn that some of the victims were FFA members.

Sheryl Barney
Safford, Arizona

Kindness Helps Ease Pain

To merely say "thank you" seems so inadequate in expressing our appreciation to all of our friends in the FFA whose support has helped us make it through the last few months.

We have lost count of the number of cards, letters and flowers that were sent by individual FFA members, chapters and state associations. And the donations to the memorial fund have been overwhelming. Each act of kindness has been appreciated and has helped to ease some of the pain. A special thanks to the FFA members from the Denver area who visited us while we were in the various Denver hospitals.

Unfortunately, things will never quite be back to normal at the Melba Chapter. Although our physical injuries are healing, there is a huge emptiness left by the girls who did not return home. But during our time of loss one of our greatest tasks is to remember that even though Sherry, Janine and Tami are gone, some of their goals, dreams and memories can live on through those of us who remain.

On behalf of the entire Melba Chapter, all of us who survived the crash, and especially the families of Sherry Nelson, Janine Ledgerwood and Tami Daniel, please accept our deepest gratitude for your many acts of kindness.

David Daniel, Advisor
Melba, Idaho

Family Readership

My grandson shared his February-March issue of the magazine with me and I enjoyed it very much.

Stockton Shafer
Greenville, Ohio

New Feature Brings Response

I really like the "My Turn" section because it gives all the readers a chance to know a little more about their officers. Even though I'm not yet in FFA I still get the feeling I am through your magazine.

Rebecca Case
Fredericksburg, Virginia

Send letters or notes with name, address and chapter to MAILBAG, The National FUTURE FARMER, P.O. Box 15160, Alexandria, VA 22309. All letters are subject to editing.

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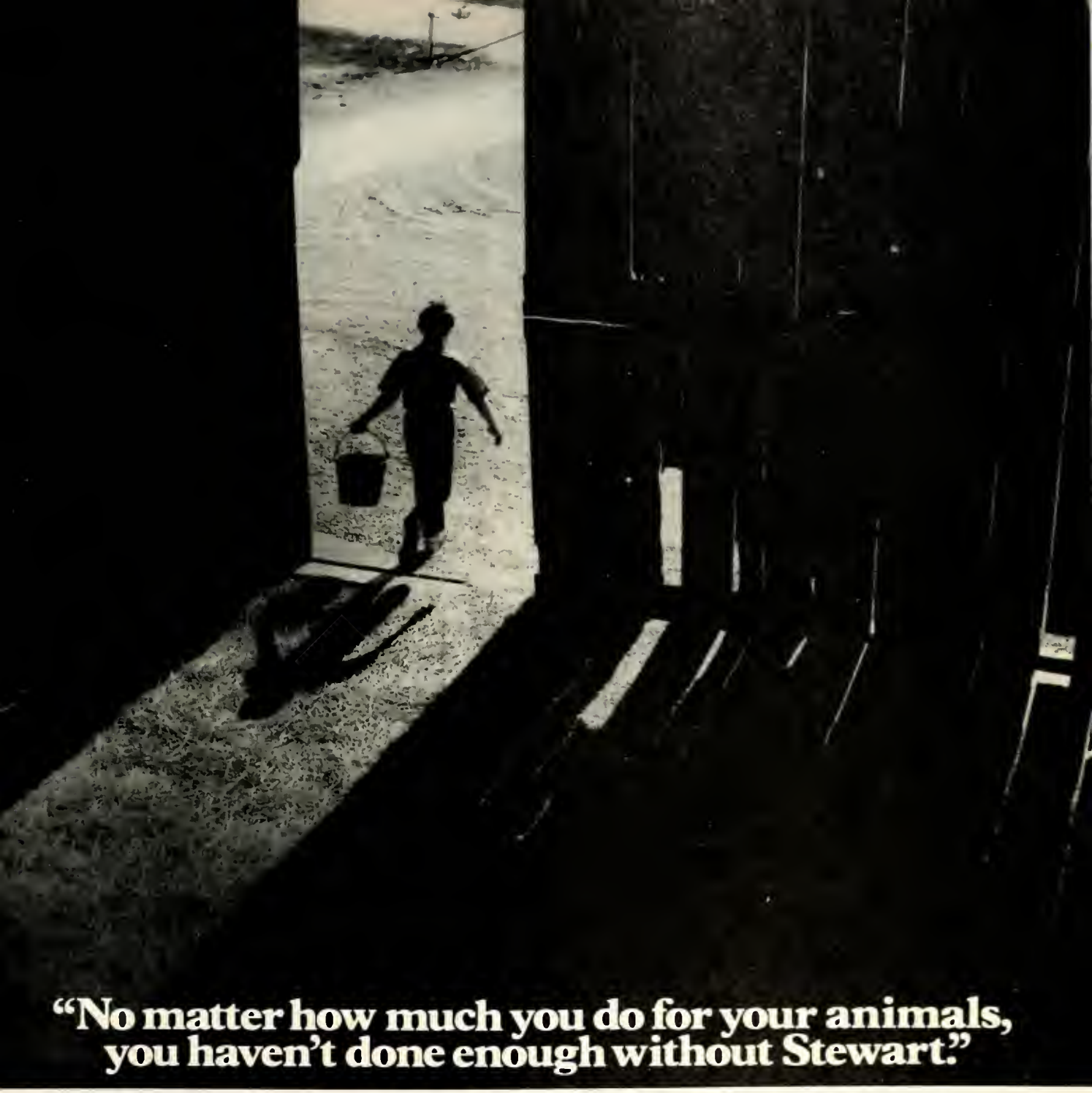

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Looking Ahead

Where's the Beef Voters?

Qualified FFA members are being urged to vote on the upcoming Beef Promotion and Research Program's referendum that will be held Tuesday, May 10. The outcome of the referendum will decide whether beef producers will continue to pay $1 per head sold for beef promotion and research.

The most popular proof of the beef producer's dollars at work have been the television, radio and print advertisements featuring James Garner and Cybill Shepherd. Promoting beef as "Real Food for Real People," the ads drew mass attention during primetime coverage of the Olympic Games in February.

To be eligible to vote, FFA members must have owned at least one head of beef, veal or dairy between October 1, 1986, and March 31, 1988.

County Extension Service offices have been chosen as the voting place for national referendum. Voting hours will be the same as regular extension business hours, and since May 10 is a regular school day, FFA members may need to arrange for an absentee ballot and registration form from the State Extension Service office of the state in which they reside. For further information, members should contact their county Extension Service office.

Making Big Money on a Little Land

A new handbook written by horticulturist Booker T. Whatley called "How to Make $100,000 Farming 25 Acres," explains how to make a good living on a little land. Whatley is an internationally known breeder of sweet potatoes and grapes. The book is based on a 10-point management and marketing plan Whatley developed at Tuskegee Institute. "Whatley's 10 Rules for Success on a Little Land" reflect sound marketing ideas FFA members can use in a number of projects.

The 10 rules are:

- Provide a year-round, daily cash flow.
- Let your customers do the harvesting with a pick-your-own operation.
- Have a clientele (customer) membership club.
- Provide year-round, full-time employment.
- Be located on a hard-surfaced road within a 40-mile radius of a population of at least 50,000, with well-drained soil and an excellent source of water.
- Produce only what your clients demand—and nothing else!
- Shun middlemen like the plague.
- Choose compatible, complimentary crop components that earn a minimum of $3,000 per acre annually.
- Be weatherproof, at least as far as possible with drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- Be covered by a minimum of $250,000 worth ($1 million is better) of liability insurance.

Dairy Termination Program Closes

Over 1.2 million head of dairy cattle were slaughtered from April, 1986, through October, 1987, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Termination Program. That number reflects all cows, heifers and calves identified as dairy animals in the program's guidelines.

An additional 65,860 head of cattle were exported under the program and last December over 1.7 million pounds of steer and heifer carcasses were exported to Mexico to fulfill the program's requirements. The aim of the Dairy Termination Program was to remove dairy cattle from production to equalize dairy supply and demand and improve the financial climate for dairy producers.

Census Reports Farm Population Down But Stable

The U.S. farm population dipped by 129,000 people between 1985 and 1986 according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service and the Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census. About 5,226,000 people lived on U.S. farms in 1986 which calculates to 2.2 percent of the nation's total population (one of every 46 persons).

One of every 12 rural residents, or 8.3 percent of the rural total of 63,133,000, lived on farms. The farm population consists of persons living on farms in rural areas of the country but excludes residents of the small number of farms in urban areas.

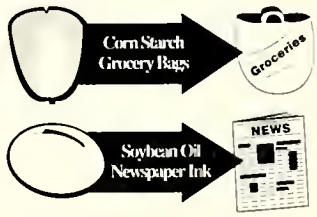
Half of all farm residents lived in the Midwest in 1986, compared with about one-third in 1950. The South's farm population has declined rapidly, from its one-half share of the farm resident total in 1950 to 29 percent in 1986. Farm residents included 110 males per 100 females in 1986 compared with just 93 males per 100 females in the non-farm population.

Better Seeds for Different Needs

Fuel, plastics, paints, lubricants and road deicers are among the products that can be made from corn and soybeans. Some Europeans already carry their groceries home in biodegradable bags made from cornstarch. A Midwestern farm magazine now prints its pages with ink made from soybean oil.

Biotechnology can make these alternative uses of corn and soybeans more viable, according to John C. Sorenson, Ph.D., research head of experimental plant genetics at Asgrow Seed Company. "We can use biotechnology to improve the raw materials chemists use to make various products," he says.

Making plastic out of starch can be more economical if chemists are provided with the right kind of starch. Starches less suited for plastics require chemical modification, which is often expensive. Through biotechnology, corn genetics can be altered so that appropriate starches



and enzymes are incorporated within a kernel to be used for a particular plastic.

Sorenson says that plastic manufacturers will probably enlist the help of plant breeders to develop hybrids specially suited for specific processes. Then those manufacturers will contact growers to produce the special corns. He adds that the genetic makeup of soybeans could conceivably be altered so that the plants produce beans that contain up to 95 percent of the desired fatty acid. Oil from such beans would be considerably more economical to process.

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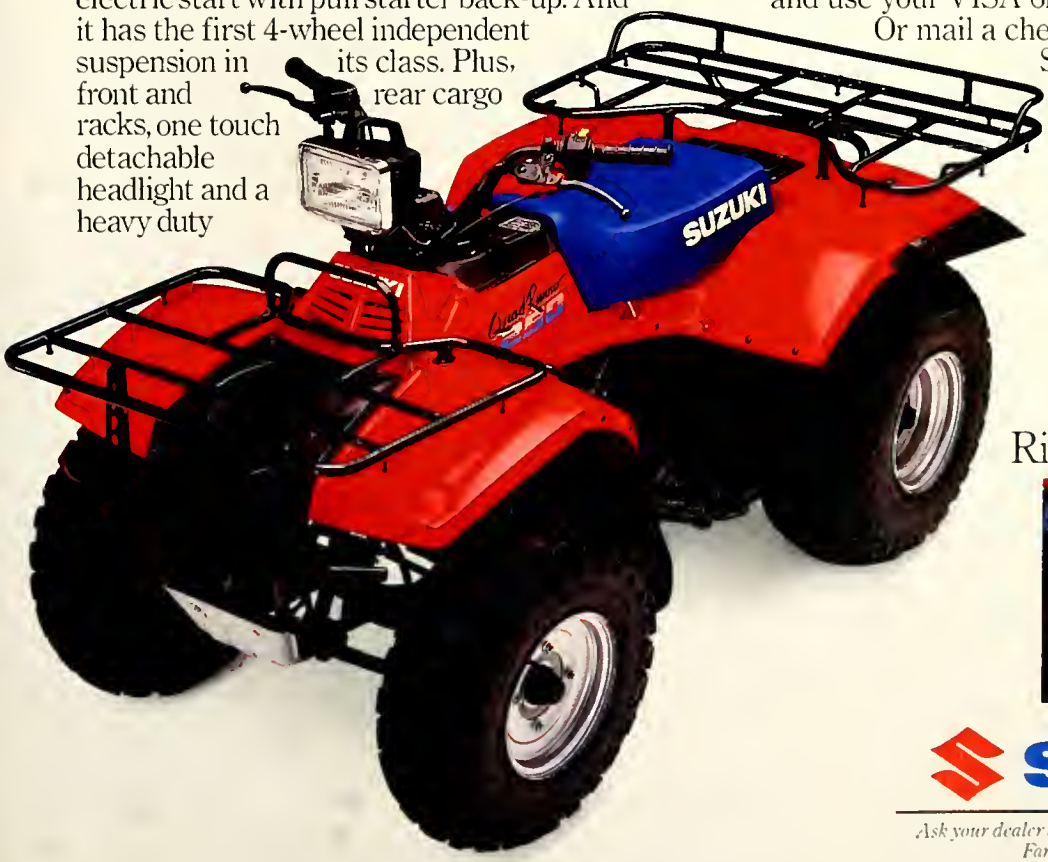

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Family Crisis Leads To Career

With his father lying in a hospital bed, Larry Brandt played a key role in keeping the family electrical business running. *By Lynn Hamilton*

Things are going well for Larry Brandt these days. The 1987 national Agricultural Electrification proficiency award winner is working at his family's electric business, Brandt Bros. Inc., and is doing what he enjoys most—working with wires.

However, the current of his life has not always flown so smoothly.

In April of 1985, his father Richard Brandt, a partner and founder of the business, was working on an asphalt plant about 80 miles from the family's Archbold, Ohio, home. It was a windy day and a gust caught him. Mr. Brandt lost his balance and fell. The accident left Mr. Brandt with a broken neck and Larry with a lot of responsibility.

"At the time, there was only my uncle and one other guy working, so I took time off school and I spent a lot of my summer working overtime," Larry, 19, says. He would make several more sacrifices in the coming year to help out with the business.

"Larry was on the prom committee that year. He skipped the prom the night of the accident to come down to the hospital," says Mr. Brandt. Later that summer, Larry also gave up his chance to attend Buckeye Boys State, a select summer government camp in Ohio, to make sure the work got done.

"I had to give a little, but yet I still enjoyed my summer," he says. Larry's attitude assured his father that the business was in good hands.

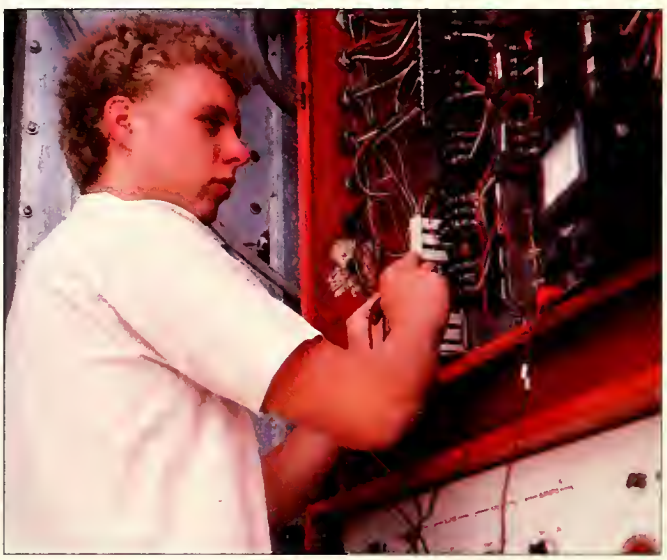
"He just seemed to grow up, he became a young man overnight," says Mr. Brandt. "When other kids would want to go running around, Larry would always check first to see if there were any more milk machines that had to be fixed or anything else that had to be done." Mr. Brandt is almost fully recovered now, though some arthritis still bothers him.

The transition from father's helper to responsible electrician was sudden, but Larry had an extensive background in skill development that enabled him to deal with his new role in the business.

"As long as I've been around, the business has been here. I grew up with it," Larry says. His father and uncle Carl started the company about 30 years ago. Mr. Brandt remembers, "From a very young age, I've always taken Larry along. We used to call him the "gopher boy"—he'd go to the truck to pick up tools."

As he got older, Larry was encouraged by friends to join the FFA chapter at his home high school, Archbold. The early electrical training had captured Larry's interest for good. "When they told me I needed an SOEP, I decided to take my work as one of my projects. I just kept building on that project," Larry says.

Even with his part-time responsibilities with the business, Larry found time to become actively involved in his chapter. He served as president his senior year and participated on the parliamentary procedure team all four years. He rounded out his activities with soil judging in the fall and animal judging in the spring.



The Brandts fix from 100 to 200 grain dryers each year.

While he developed his leadership abilities through the FFA, he was developing valuable occupational skills as he began to learn the challenges of electrical work.

"My father and my uncle encouraged me. When I was stuck on a problem, they didn't tell me the answer right away. They let me work it out so I would learn to do it right.

Some of his most difficult electrical experiences have been on unfamiliar equipment.

"We had a gravel dredge to work on, and in our location, there aren't many places for a dredge," Larry says. "We didn't really know that much about it, but we had to go in and rewire the whole dredge. We were picking up knowledge as we went along."

Brandt Bros. Inc., covers seven counties in northwestern Ohio and two counties in southeast Michigan. Ten grain elevators and nine asphalt plants are also under contract with the company, so it gives Larry and his family plenty to do. The Brandts are also Surge dairy equipment dealers, so many dairy operations also call on the company's services.

These days, a 45-hour work week is typical for Larry. "I have put in as high as 60," he says. "It depends a lot on the weather, because we do a lot of work with bulk tanks. When the weather gets bad, we might be out until midnight fixing tanks."

Hooking up the dairy systems also takes a lot of computer work. Mr. Brandt says, "Larry has taken that over completely. I understand them to a point, but he's more advanced in that, he knows how to program and wire them up."

But Larry would rather be outdoors than working in milk parlors or on house wiring. "I like to work a lot around the elevators, commercial work," he says. "It's more challenging. At the elevators, there are a lot of people around and when you're in a community like ours where everyone knows everyone else, people can see what you're doing. If you do that well, they may call you."

The work environment and the constant change of pace are what Larry likes best about his work. "You get into a different situation almost every day, it's

always changing," he says. "I enjoy meeting the people. They're friendly."

Mr. Brandt says, "Sometimes we'll fix 100 to 200 grain dryers a season. I've been trying to teach him to diagnose what could be wrong with grain dryers."

Larry has earned a substantial amount of money in the five years he has worked with Brandt Bros. He has not been afraid to invest, and he now owns 15 percent of the company. He has also purchased a car and has put money away for the future.

What that future will be is not decided yet, he says. "It's kind of up in the air right now whether I'll go to college or stay around for a while. I'm still open to going to college. In the near future, I'll be staying in the business."

Try, Try Again

Whatever Larry decides to do, he is sure to do well, because of the way he sets his goals. "You should set goals high enough so that they're difficult to reach, but you shouldn't set them where they're unattainable. An unattainable goal will only discourage you."

His success with the proficiency award was an example of his ability to shoot for the reachable stars. But an extra word of support from a friend can go a long way, as Larry found out.

His encouragement came early in his FFA career from a local farmer, Merle Short, who had the Brandts wire a hog barn for him.

"Larry was here when he was a freshman helping his dad doing some wiring on a hog setup I was building," Short says. "He was kind of a bashful kid at that point and I told him that, working with his dad, he had a shot at winning the electrification award at the state level, at least.

"I told him, 'If you really work at it, the national award would be available, too.'"

Larry's goal was to win the state award. His 1986 second-place finish in Ohio did not daunt his determination, though. "Just because you may have received second once, don't give up. Keep on striving to be the best you can be," is his advice.

Mr. Short gave him some more support to try again. "I told him, 'The next time, I'm sure you're going to make it.'" Larry set his goals a little higher.

Larry's determination and Mr. Short's encouragement worked. By winning the national electrification award, sponsored by Klein Tools, Inc., LeaseAmerica Corporation and the National Food & Energy Council, Incorporated, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Larry will go on a three-week agricultural tour of Europe in June. •••

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Her Results Do the Talking

Christy Youngblood excels through leadership, scholarship and good old hard work

In FFA, many members tend to believe that in order to be a leader, you must be a high-ranking officer. Christy Youngblood is disproving that myth.

This energetic young lady made history by winning top individual honors in two national contests back-to-back and placing second in the National Public Speaking Contest. Christy is the only person to ever accomplish this feat according to the National FFA Contest staff.

Christy has been polishing her leadership skills since her first day of high school agriculture class as a sophomore at Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek, North Carolina. She joined the parliamentary procedure team.

Christy's parents encouraged her to take horticulture class to learn how to manage the family's two greenhouses. It was her interest in horticulture that originally whetted her appetite for competition in the nursery/landscape contest as a junior—the first contest in which Christy won top honors.

When Christy wasn't preparing for or competing in the horticulture contest, she was busy in the family greenhouses. She raised strawberries, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, spinach and lettuce as part of her SOE.

Advancing all the way to national contests became a yearly goal for Christy and Chatham Central. She and her team returned in 1986 to participate in the floriculture contest. For the second year in a row, Christy took home the national top individual title.

Going for the Gold

How was one person able to accomplish such a record? Her advisor, Julian Smith, says its not because of any unusual talent, but because she is so determined. "Christy is tremendously motivated. She is a competitor and a goal-setter. I've never had a student work as hard as she does. She challenged me to work harder."

Smith added, "She always helped those on her teams do well. Christy's philosophy was, the team isn't any better than it's weakest member. She did her very best—not only to learn and progress, but to share what she could with the rest of the team."

Christy was no only a team leader, but a chapter leader as well. She served as chapter secretary her junior year, then as president her senior year.

Although she didn't run for a state office, Christy retained her FFA membership after high school. She won North Carolina's prepared public speaking contest in June, the tri-state contest in August and the "Big E" (eastern region) contest in September, earning the right to participate in the national contest in Kansas City last November. She didn't win, but coming in second wasn't exactly a let-down.

"I remember standing on stage and all the lights were down, Said Christy. "All I could see were pinpoints from the spot lights and a bunch of photo flashes. It was overwhelming and exhilerating."

What did she gain from the experience? "Increased confidence," Christy explains. "I had worked seven months to reach that point. It proved to me once again that by taking many small steps, it is possible to reach the larger, ultimate goal. Plus, it reinforced my belief that nothing worthwhile is ever easy. If it's worth doing, it's worth working hard and being dedicated to the task at hand."

Christy also learned more about careers in agriculture from participating in the contest. After winning the state contest, she continued to research her topic, a process that included spending about an hour at the office of a large agrichemical company, CIBA-GIEGY, in Greensboro, North Carolina. "I learned more in that hour than I thought was humanly possible," Christy stated.

When asked what suggestions she might have for future competitors, Christy stressed talking to as many people as possible and holding practice contests.

Her advisor made arrangements for Christy to deliver the speech to a number of different community groups

At the 1986 national floriculture contest in Kansas City, Christy emerged as top individual. It was the second time in two years she had accomplished such a feat.
Photo by Orlin Wagner

By Jeri D. Mattics

who would hold a question and answer session, just like the contest, after she finished speaking.

University Life

Christy is now a freshman at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill majoring in biology. She is considering a second major in speech communications. Her choice of major was directly influenced by participation in FFA. Christy is planning a career in biotechnology but hasn't decided whether to concentrate her efforts in research or public relations.

Christy's educational expenses are being covered by the prestigious Morehead Award. The selection committee for this scholarship looks for evidence of moral force of character, capacities to lead and motivate fellow students, scholastic ability and extracurricular achievements, and physical vigor. That last criteria, physical vigor, is heavily weighted and most Morehead Awards are given to proven athletes.

"I think taking high school agriculture helped, not hindered, my preparation for college."
—Christy Youngblood

However, since the selection process involved interviews, Christy was able to convince the committee her FFA activities were just as important and educational as being involved with athletic teams.

"At first, most of the committee was reluctant to admit that a vocational program could be beneficial in college preparation. Because of the leadership and public speaking training I received through FFA, I was able to convince the committee that my SOE was just as physically vigorous as sports as well as being a year-around activity."

When asked if she felt she was adequately prepared for college, Christy replied, "Most definately. I would encourage any college-bound student to take a high school agriculture course. Students must look at what they can get out of any course and then decide what to take. Unfortunately, many students are led to believe they won't be able to go to college if they take vocational courses. I think taking high school agriculture helped, not hindered, my preparation for college."

At UNC, Christy shows no signs of letting her leadership training go unused. She's active in a number of campus organizations including the Campus Y (YMCA), Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and the Order of the Bell Tower, a student ambassador program.

By channeling her leadership abilities into contest participation, Christy Youngblood proves that you don't have to be a high-ranking officer to be a leader. Leadership isn't just a matter of holding an office, it's an attitude of service. •••

On the Road

By Andrew Markwart

As Kelli Evans, national FFA president, walked through downtown Tokyo during a lunchtime rush hour, she was the only blonde person for as far as the eye could see. With the rest of her very American-looking national officer team marching down the sidewalk beside her, she stood out like Jon Bon Jovi at a Japanese wedding.

But none of the Japanese passers-by stared or even took a long look at such an unlikely scene. Staring is considered impolite in Japan and if the Japanese are anything, they are polite people. This was one of the many lessons the 1987-88 National FFA Officers learned as they toured Japan, February 1-9.

Weary from a 13-hour plane ride and a week of intense FFA Board of Directors meetings, the officers, Kelli, Kevin Ochsner, Bill Hollis, Mickey McCall, Dunn LeDoux and Terri Hames began their international adventure in Tokyo.

During their stay in Japan's largest city—8 million people packed in 500 square miles—the officers toured historical and religious sites, the American Embassy, a major fresh produce and seafood market and the world headquarters of Mitsui & Company, Inc., who sponsored the entire trip as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Mitsui is a major importer of American agricultural commodities.

The highlight of the officers' stay in Tokyo was their visit to the Engei Horticulture School, a strong chapter in FFA's Oriental counterpart, the Future Farmers of Japan (FFJ). Part of what was planned as an orderly tour of the school grounds turned into a noisy, spirited, enjoyable exchange of names, small trinkets, and smiles of appreciation.

Later, in a more serious setting, the two groups exchanged official greetings through the help of an interpreter. As a symbol of friendship and continued cooperation between the two organizations, National FFA President Kelli gave National FFJ President Myota a large photo book, *A Day in the Life of America*. The book features photographs taken on the same day all across the United States. The FFJ treated the officers to a historic tea ceremony and native Japanese music.

But the officers exposure to Japan wasn't limited to big city lights and tea ceremonies. They received a crash-course in international economics as they traveled to shipping ports, food processing plants and machinery assembly plants across southwest Japan.

As they visited with various company representatives, they found that the current trade relationship between the U.S. and Japan doesn't seem satisfactory to either country.

What the officers learned was that both the U.S. and Japan have excellent arguments and there seems to be no easy solutions. And even with these differences, Japan is still a leading importer of United States agricultural commodities.

All in the Family

After a week of business and industry tours, the officers' ventured on their own to six different cities in southern Japan for the weekend where they were hosted by FFJ members and supporters. What started out as the most frightening part of the Japanese trip turned out to be the most rewarding.

Armed with a Japanese pocket dictionary, a few "survival" words (thank you, yes, your welcome) and round-trip train tickets, the officers set out to their various destinations, not knowing what was in store for them. Every officer reported that they were greeted with warmth and hospitality like they had never before experienced.

It was with their Japanese host families that officers got an authentic feel for Japanese culture. Bill Hollis, central region vice president, summed-up his experiences saying, "The most difficult thing I had to do in Japan was leave my host family. We were just establishing communications and I was finally tapping into the backgrounds of these incredibly interesting people. Their loyality to their family their country and their work was inspiring. I've learned a lot about patience and thoughfulness from these people."

For a national officer's personal views of Japan, please see Mickey McCall's impressions in the column, "My Turn," on page 47.

Photos above, then clockwise are: fresh produce waiting to be sold at the Tsakiji Market in Tokyo; FFA President Evans uses her dictionary to speak with FFJ President Myota; Kyoto's famous Buddhist Temples and Shinto Shrines are a favorite sightseeing attraction for the Japanese as well as this curious group of Americans; these young Japanese agriculture students from Saga may clown around in the chicken house, but when it's time to study, schoolwork is serious business; Kevin Ochsner, left, gets a detailed description of a feed processing plant in Nagoya; Bill Hollis was able to communicate with students from the Tokyo Engei Horticulture School using a few simple words and plenty of hand gestures (bottom, middle); even though Japan has an extensive train and subway system, parking spots are still hard to find (middle, second from bottom) and Big Macs and McNuggets were a welcome break from sushi (delicately-prepared arrangements of raw seafood and rice) and sashimi (raw fish). *Photos by Author*

to Tokyo

Soil from every state was placed around the flagpole at the FFA building during the dedication.

FFA President Kennedy and NFA President Pinson exchange jackets in merger ceremony.

FFA Reaches Forty

The fourth in a series of articles on the history of FFA

By Wilson Carnes

The FFA continued to thrive as an organization during its fourth decade from 1958 to 1967. Programs and activities started in earlier years became entrenched as a part of the vocational agriculture program in the nation serving more students than ever before. It was also a time when the national organization operated under the leadership of three different national advisors.

Dr. W. T. Spanton reached the age of 70 in 1961 and was forced to retire under the policies of the federal government at that time. Spanton had served as national advisor since 1941 when he was appointed Chief of the Agricultural Education Service in the U.S. Office of Education. He was the last of the national advisors who helped form the organization in 1928. The FFA had matured as an organization under his leadership.

Replacing Spanton was Dr. A. W. Tenney, who came to the Office of Education from Florida in 1943 and had served until 1957 as national executive secretary of FFA. For eight years while serving as executive secretary of FFA he also served as Program Specialist in Agricultural Education for the 13 states in the Central Region. This provided an excellent background for Tenney's role as national advisor.

In 1965, Dr. Tenney was appointed to another position in the U.S. Office of Education. H. Neville Hunsicker, the newly appointed Chief of Agricultural Education, became National FFA Advisor. He was the first former member of FFA and vocational agriculture student to serve as national advisor. Prior to joining the Office of Education in 1952, Mr. Hunsicker had served as FFA Executive Secretary and later as State Supervisor in West Virginia.

Another big change occurred in FFA in 1965. For many years Black students of vocational agriculture in several states belonged to the New Farmers of America. For several years leaders of both organizations had been working together to merge the two organizations. This goal was finally achieved in October, 1965, at the National FFA Convention.

In an impressive ceremony Rudolph Pinson, national NFA president, took off his NFA jacket and put on his blue and gold FFA jacket symbolizing the transfer of 52,000 students to the FFA. At last the merger was complete.

The National FUTURE FARMER magazine continued to receive wide acceptance among FFA members. At the 36th national convention in 1965, the delegates voted to raise national dues from 10 to 50 cents so each FFA member nationwide could receive their personal copy of the magazine. When the official FFA magazine was received in the homes of all members, it marked the achievement of a long-time goal of the FFA.

International activities were receiving increased attention by FFA in its fourth decade. For several years various exchange programs had been conducted with other Future Farmer organizations in Great Britain, Japan, Philippines and other countries. While these programs followed no particular pattern, they did increase FFA's involvement and awareness of the world we live in.

One of the more noteworthy international programs occurred in 1963 when the FFA signed a contract to sponsor a Peace Corps project in West Pakistan. A total of 34 volunteers were involved in projects to improve agriculture and rural life. This program operated until 1965.

The first National Leadership Training Conference was held in Washington, D.C., July 20-24, 1959, with 250 state FFA officers in attendance. A highlight of the conference was the dedication of the FFA building. The delegates also met in the White House Rose Garden with President Dwight Eisenhower.

For FFA, the struggle of former years was paying off as the organization was reaching new heights at the end of its fourth decade. •••

Milestones

1959-First National Leadership Training Conference for state officers held in Washington, D.C.
-National FFA building dedicated.
1961-Dr. A. W. Tenney named National FFA Advisor.
1963-FFA sponsors Peace Corps project in West Pakistan.
1964-One millionth FFA jacket sold by Supply Service.
-FFA exceeds 400,000 members, 401,468 in 8,300 chapters.
1965-H. N. Hunsicker becomes the first national advisor who was a student of vocational agriculture and FFA member.
-The New Farmers of America merged with FFA.
-Delegates vote to raise dues from 10 to 50 cents and send each member a copy of *The National FUTURE FARMER*.
1966-First Career Show at National FFA Convention.
1967-National convention celebrates "Fifty Golden Years" of vocational agriculture.

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"Garden"

Where Did All Those Farm Words Come From?

By Jay Gaines

Centuries ago, the principal crop grown by Anglo-Saxon farmers in northern Europe was barley and, at harvesttime, the farmers stored their grain in a small shed or shelter known simply as a *berern*, or "barley house." The word was from *bere* (which meant "barley") and *aern* ("closed place"). As time went by, this shelter, or *berern*, was used not only to store grain but to house all crops and animals; and the word *berern* became our present "barn."

There is a story behind almost every word in our language but none are more interesting than those concerning the words related to, or associated with, farming. These stories provide not only an understanding of how and why our farming words began, they also provide a revealing look at our farming history and roots.

The word "farm" had an interesting beginning. Originally, a farmer was not a tiller of the soil, but a collector of rent and taxes. In France and England, a peasant would lease or rent a tract of land for agricultural purposes and the amount of money, or fee, paid for the rented land was called *firme*. The individual who collected the *ferme*, or rent, was called a *fermer*. It wasn't until the 15th century that the words *ferme* and *fermer* became our present farm and farmer and adopted their present meanings. Prior to that, a tiller of the soil was called a "villain," from the Latin *villa* and French *vilein* (farm servant).

To farm, there must be a "field" to till and this word began in the British Isles where ancient farmers referred to a plot of land from which trees had been cleared, or felled, as a *feld*. It was an easy jump from *feld* to "field."

And the word "dairy?" Well, years ago when the ruling class lived in castles and manors, small huts nearby were reserved for such chores as cooking, baking and churning. These domestic tasks were handled by a female servant, called a *dey*, and the small house in which they worked, a *deyery*. Since there was always milk sitting around for use in the daily chores, any place where milk was processed or used for cooking became known as the *deyery*, or "dairy."

The person who milked the cows was called by the Anglo-Saxons, a *dohtor*, and in most cases, the task of milking was usually assigned to adolescent girls. As a result, all young girls gradually became known as *dohtors* and by Shakespeare's time the term had evolved into "daughter."

Farmers of that era, who did keep dairy cattle, noticed that a newborn calf had very long legs which made the animal appear to be out-of-proportion. Therefore, they combined their words for "high" and "fore" and the *healfore* (high in front) was born. The name came to be reserved for cows which have not calved and a change in spelling gave us "heifer."

Livestock need "fodder" and in England, livestock feeds were called *fodor*, or *foda*, from which we arrived at our word "food and "fodder."

When *fodor*, or fodder, was "planted," the term literally sprang from the sole of the foot. Seeds or saplings were first placed in the ground, and then the soil was stamped down by the farmer's feet. The Latin word for the sole of the foot is *planta* and from this we arrived at our "plant."

Eventually, after the seeds were planted, the "crops" were ready for harvest. The English used "crop" when speaking of the "head" of a plant's stem . At harvesttime, only the heads, or crops, were harvested. Now, any plant is called a "crop" and animals that graze—eat the heads off grass—are said to "crop it."

"Field"

Regardless of the main crop of any farm, almost every farmer has a small garden for fruits, vegetables and even flowers. "Garden" is a word attributed to the early monks who planted fruits, vegetables and herbs just outside their monastery. To protect their precious rows of plants from grazing livestock, the monks built walls and fences around their small plots. Such a protected or guarded spot was called a *gardin*, which became our "garden."

"Farmer"

Finally, a quick look at a few of the common farm words we take for granted. Across the way, that "neighbor" is literally a farmer who lives near you because the word comes from the Old English *neahgebur*, which meant "nearby farmer." The word "cattle" resulted from a corrupted version of *capitale* (our present "capital"), the term for a landholder's possessions. The word "season" came from the French word for seedtime, *seison*. "Acre" can be traced way back to the days of the Sumerians and their word *agar*, "a watered field."

There are literally hundreds of words around the farm with interesting origins. Almost every word in our farm vocabulary goes back a long, long way—and it is from our past that we learn about our present. Our farm vocabulary is, in essence, the history of farming and knowing where those farm words came from tells us where we came from. •••

What's New

A John Deere's AMT 600 can carry up to 600 pounds of cargo over all kinds of terrain. The AMT 600 has a three-step drive system, variable-speed drive to a transaxle for the first set of wheels and roller chain for the second set of wheels. The box can hold up to 12.5 cubic feet of loose material. The AMT can fit in the back of a standard-size pickup truck.

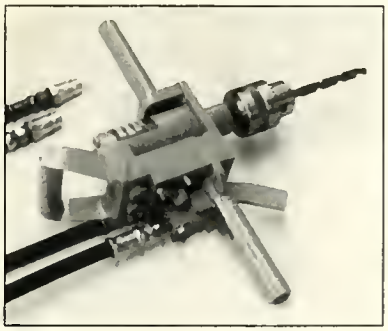
A

B

B Dodge Dakota 4x4 models feature the 3.9 liter V-6 engine with throttle-body injection and has many standard features including the V-6, AM/FM stereo cassette, power steering, leather-wrapped sport steering wheel, unique graphics, remote outside mirrors, air dam with fog lamps and cast aluminum wheels.

C

C Case IH introduces the 200 series tractors in the under-40 horsepower range. These tractors, paired with a full line of Case IH attachments, can handle many smaller-scale farm applications, specialty crops and turf and landscape work. Shown is the 27 PTO hp Model 275.



D The new Bendzick B200 hydraulic drill couples with tractors, utility trucks, skid loaders or other hydraulic sources for portable power on demand. The unit features standard 3/4-inch chuck and variable spring-loaded trigger, with two 10-foot 3/8-inch R100 hoses.

D

E

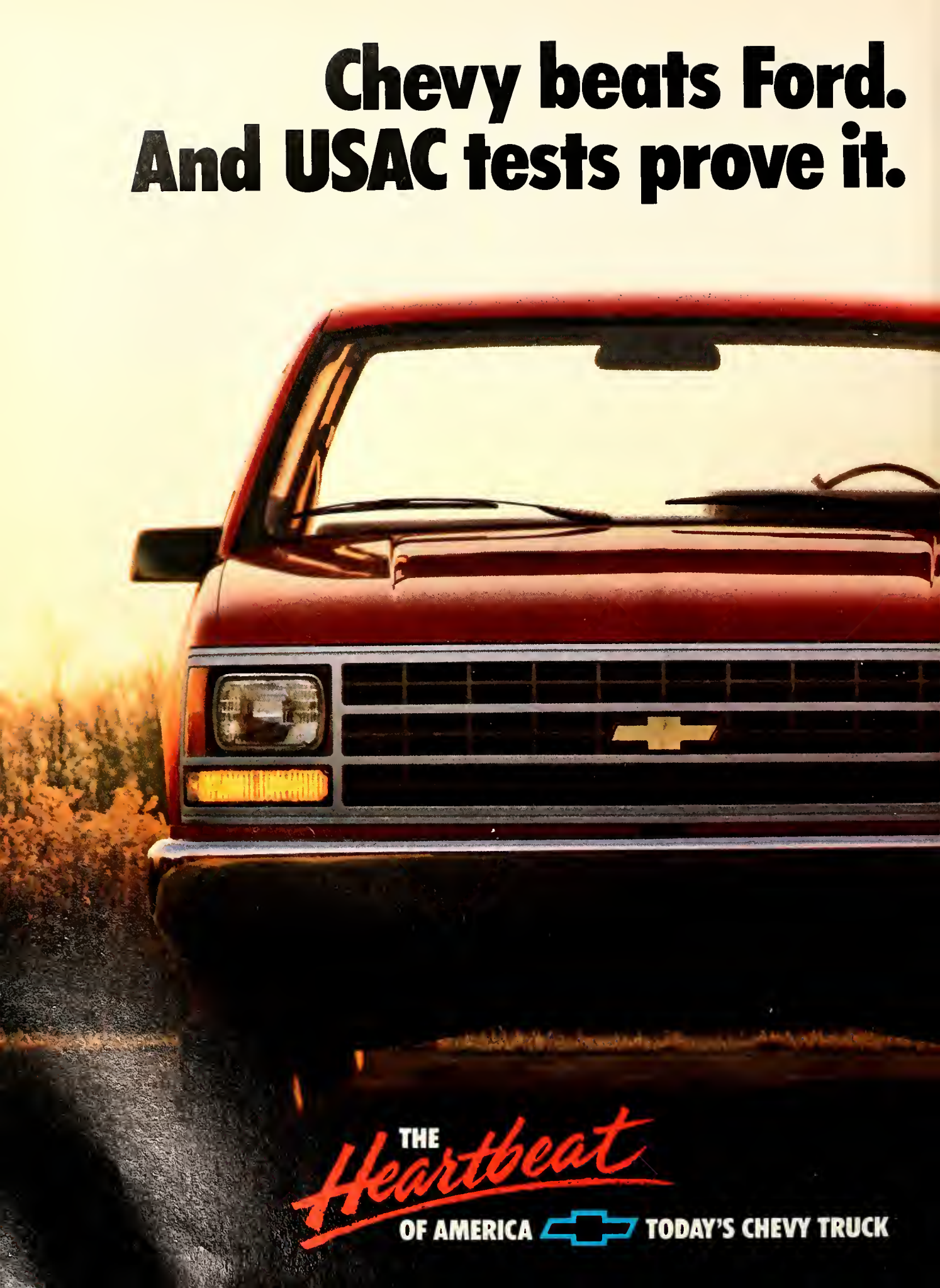
E Midland International has introduced a limited-edition Gold Power Max CB radio to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Citizens Band radio. A professional class 40-channel CB transceiver, model 77-250G, has 24 KT gold-covered knobs and special gold lettering and accents. The limited edition also features new high-intensity amber readouts and an all-black, high-tech face.

F

F Ford's Eddie Bauer Bronco II includes a new 4x2 model with a rear antilock brake system, low-oil warning light and is powered by a 2.9-liter multiple-port electronic fuel injected engine.

(BELOW) Chevrolet's '88 S-10 Blazer in either two-wheel drive with optional Tahoe trim (left) or 4x4 with optional High Country package. The High Country Blazer is quickly distinguished by its midnight black/Nevada gold paint scheme, black chrome trim, black mirrors. The 4x4 features Insta-Trac for shifting into 4WD High and back again at any speed.

Chevy beats Ford. And USAC tests prove it.



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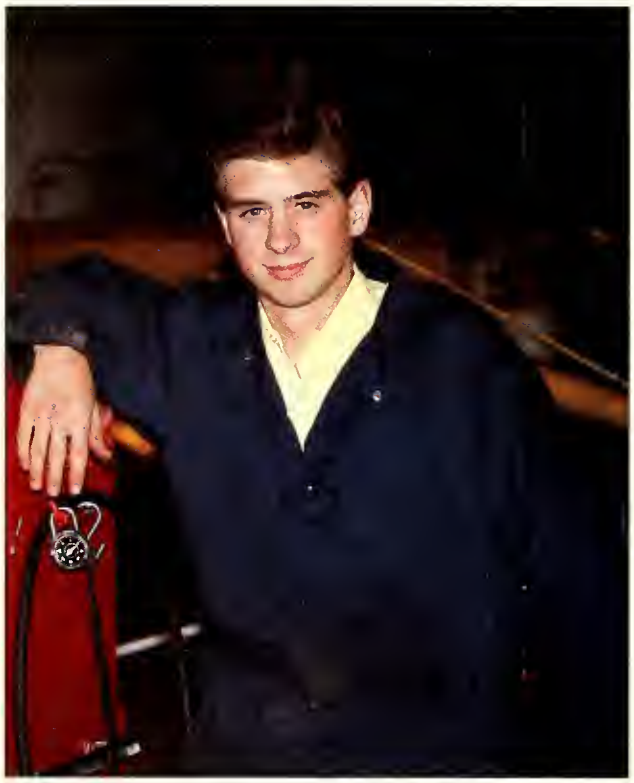
Parts Salesman, Part Mechanic

By Lynn Hamilton

Greg Burbick has been a manager, a mechanic, a salesman and a teacher. Quite a list of accomplishments for anyone—considering that Greg is only 20 years old. This resume is part of the reason Greg was named the national agricultural mechanics proficiency winner last November at the National FFA Convention.

"I've been through a lot of areas—I've done machine work, mechanical work, I've sold auto parts, and now I'm selling agricultural parts at Witmer's," Greg says. He also taught a tractor certification course at his school.

An early interest in agriculture and mechanics started Greg on the path to success. His love of agriculture came from his grandfather's 300-acre dairy farm near Columbiana, Ohio, one acre of which his parents bought to build a house. He started working at a machine shop in Columbiana after his freshman year of high school, which eventually led to his enrollment at Columbiana County Joint Vocational School.



Burbick says personal service is key to good business.

"One of the junior instructors at the Columbiana County Joint Vocational School was also employed in the machine shop during the summer. I was thinking about diesel mechanics, but he told me about the ag mechanics program and the FFA, so I decided to give that a try," Greg says.

Tom Roush, Greg's senior instructor, says, "When he came as a junior, it was obvious that he was there because he wanted to be and wanted to learn."

In the classroom as well as FFA, Greg stood out as a leader who was willing to work hard. By his senior year, he was president of the 80-member Columbiana County chapter, and had designed a shop management program for the agricultural mechanics department.

Greg explains, "We had the need for someone to organize our parts system in the classroom. Two of us in the class were interested in parts, so we worked with the teachers and they were very understanding about it.

"We designed a program where we took care of ordering parts for the students working in shop. It was the first year anybody in the school was paid for shop work," he says.

Greg explained that the senior ag mechanic class was run like a business. Students could bid how many hours it would take to complete a job that was brought into shop. The student with the lowest hour bid won the job, and was paid for his work.

"No one got rich from it, but it was incentive to come to class," Greg says.

The extra effort in class and in the FFA paid off for Greg, not just in mechanics work in shop, but in getting placed in jobs during school and after graduation. "I figured anything I did above and beyond the classroom would look that much better on my job application," he says.

And that it did. He was hired by Phil's Sales and Service as a mechanic during his senior year, then full-time for a year after graduation. After leaving Phil's, he started his journey as a partsman at Columbiana Auto Parts, where he worked for six months. From there, he moved to Witmer's, Inc., an agribusiness that deals primarily with White farm equipment.

Greg considers his FFA training one of his most valuable assets in finding jobs. "Employers are looking for people who can work with the public. I found that they're not looking as much for the talent as the abilty to work with people and the willingness to work," he said.

Ralph Witmer, Greg's boss, says, "Our employees need both the knowledge of the parts and the people skills. Greg has both."

Greg finds use for these skills every day in his 45-hour per week job at Witmer's, Inc., where he works in the parts department, helping customers get the right parts and entering orders on a computer. Although he has found that parts are his favorite work in ag mechanics, he says it is frustrating trying to meet the customer's needs.

"Sometimes, farmers aren't the most explanatory people in the world," Greg says. "They'll say, "I need a part—get it for me,' or they'll tell their wives, 'Call Witmer's and tell them my feed grinder is broken and get the part ordered.'

"Employers are looking for people who can work with the public."

—Greg Burbick

"Well, these poor ladies don't have any idea what part it is and it never fails you have to ask for the serial number," he says with a chuckle.

While this is the most frustrating part of the job, Greg understands it well. When he worked as a mechanic, he had to replace broken parts and empathizes with his customers.

"You've got to work with them and understand where they're coming from. It's a lot easier when you've been there," he explains.

Down the Road

Greg enjoys the challenges of his work at Witmer's, and plans to stay there for a while—even though he will get a three-week vacation in June to tour European agriculture. This is part of his national award, sponsored by Case IH as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Greg owns enough tools and equipment to go into business for himself, but for now, he would rather get more experience with his employer. Witmer's has three different divisions and sells 21 lines of parts, so he sees many opportunities to move around. "We have a profit-sharing program at Witmer's, so everybody's really cautious of the bottom line because it's just like your money," he explains.

He would like to pass on his experiences to others in an educational role. "I'd like to go back to school some day and take some educational courses. I've talked to my JVS instructors—it takes seven years of experience or equivalent hours in college," Greg says.

"I think I'll get my experience in, take a few classes in education and see if I can't swing getting into teaching."

Mr. Witmer says, "He's sharp enough that he'll be in society where he'll have a great part—he'll do well." •••

State Officers Attend Green Week

Nine state officers from Wisconsin and Virginia attended the International Green Week Exposition in Berlin, Germany, January 29 through February 9. The Green Week Expo featured an Agriculture and Consumer Show that included machinery exhibits from around the world and international livestock shows.

The FFA officers attending Green Week were Mark Cox, Scott Lilly and Chellie Hyre from Virginia and Bryan Higgins, Angela Corbin, Richard Heine, Sonya Rae Granger, John Anderson and Paul Oman from Wisconsin. Theresa Schumacher of FFA's International Programs staff accompanied the officers on their tour.

While in Berlin, the officers met with members of the Bund der Deutschen Lanjugend, Germany's agricultural youth organization. They also attended a meeting of CEJA, the Common Market countries assembly of rural and young farmers, to listen to discussions of the young European farmers.

The officers also travelled through West Germany, meeting with agriculture youth groups and sightseeing. They toured East Berlin, and while in Munich, saw the Olympic Stadium complex, went sledding in the Alps, visited a castle and participated in other local festivities. The FFA delegation also visited Dachau, a concentration camp where thousands of Jews died during World War II.

Gathered just outside the International Congress Center in Berlin, West Germany, are left to right; Bryan Higgins, Mark Cox, Paul Oman, Sonya Rae Granger, Scott Lilly, Chellie Hyre, Richard Heine, Angela Corbin and John Anderson.

Photo by Theresa Schumacher

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Chapter Scoop

Both Mr. and Mrs. Claus came to the **Elk Mound,** WI, FFA Christmas party. Section officers *Blane Huppert* and *Paul Oman* actually made the appearance for Mr. and Mrs. Claus as a surprise for the chapter.

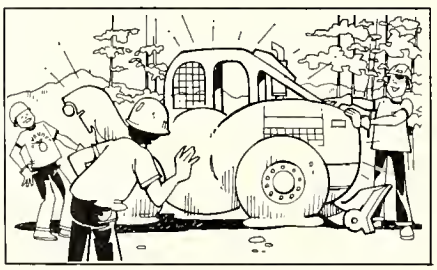
The **Angleton,** TX, FFA float carried out the "Our Proud Heritage" theme with grandparents, parents and members on board amid old-fashioned farm props like a windmill and barn.

The cheerleaders at **Schuyler,** NE, helped host a pep rally to honor the FFA's land judging team.

Upper Sandusky, OH, FFA made and gave away personal-sized fruit baskets to folks who have helped them, like the photographer for the local paper and the school staff.

The **Spring,** TX, FFA said thanks to 250 teachers and staff at a breakfast in January.

Items of business at the **Southeast** FFA Chapter in Ravenna, OH, were to look into buying a 35mm camera, approve a list of duties for a chaplain and eliminate summer meetings and replace them with recreational events.



Members of the **Buckeye Hills,** OH, FFA are excited about the new supply of heavy equipment added to the forestry/-logging program this year.

Chicago Ag Science Chapter in IL has added a historian to their officer team.

Glide, OR, FFA'ers put in new chin-up bars for the elementary school to use during recess.

Tomah, WI, members reconditioned over 1,000 toys this year to give to kids at Christmastime.

Weatherford and **Thomas,** OK, Chapters hold their Greenhand and Chapter Farmer degree ceremonies together so members get to know each other better.

Waupaca, WI, FFA used the old corn drive idea to raise money—Corn for Cancer. They publicized the drive and then collected enough corn from members and farmers in the school district to sell and give $200 to the cancer drive.

DeWitt Central FFA in IA operated the coat check at the local pork producers banquet this winter.

Elgin, OH, members are offering to work for a day at $3 per hour to earn money for the chapter trip to national convention. They also hope the work will turn up future job opportunities.

Every year the **Leland,** CA, Chapter in San Jose sells pumpkins at the elementary schools. The sales are designed to promote the FFA as a community service project.

Carthage, MS, built a flower bed in the shape of a "C" on the hillside in front of the high school. The chapter did the work as well as paid for the project as their contribution to school pride.

Artesia, NM, FFA gives some citrus from their sales campaign to the annual Christmas party for foster children.

Brother and sister *Brian* and *Lora Betts* of the **Kimball,** MN, Chapter both are members of winning judging teams. And both have won individual honors. Brian was tops in the forestry contest at district and Lora was first in dairy products.

Pleasant Ridge, KS, reported that the 30 members of the chapter raised $1,300 in their first fund raiser for the year, selling sausage.

Limestone, ME, made 22-inch holiday wreaths from Balsam fir tips adding two pine cones, some dusty miller and some red berries, plus a bow.

Keytesville, MO, has applied for a grant to operate a farmer's market in their community.

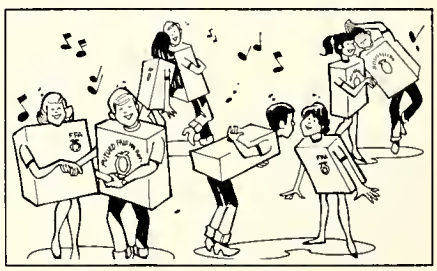
The **Kofa,** AZ, Chapter officers organized a dance for members to thank them for their hard work in operating the fund-raiser barbeque.

Three roller-skating parties are sponsored by the **Stonewell Jackson Junior** FFA in VA each year for the student body—Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day.

Fund raiser for **Jefferson** FFA in WV is making apple butter. Like 207 gallons to sell. They use the money for judging teams, national convention and other chapter events.

An FFA demonstration team for **Mohawk,** PA, chose a topic about computer controlled feeding systems for dairy cattle. The title of their demonstration for the state contest was "Bytes for Bites."

Stroman FFA in Victoria, TX, used puppets to educate children about farm animals and agriculture. They have had a children's barnyard for ten years at the local stock show.



The FFA-FHA square dance team, the "Crazy Eights" is practicing for their annual competition at the state farm show representing the **Mohawk,** PA, Chapter.

Bingham, UT, Chapter organized a blood drive and held a barn dance to raise money—both to help the family of a member.

Cloudcroft, NM, FFA runs the village ice skating pond as a BOAC project.

The editors must have received 100 letters for "Scoop" telling about Joe or Bill or Mary winning the local or county or district public speaking contest. We really appreciate the response, but they are sort of all the same and not really the kind of new idea or unusual suggestion or a different way-to-do-it. Share those items, too. Thanks.

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The New Ag Professionals: Ag Engineers

Applying Science for Practical Results

By Wayne Maley

Agricultural engineers use scientific principles to design systems and equipment to manage the resources that provide food and fiber.

They learn the skills of engineering and related skills of agriculture. These skills are applied across the spectrum of the food production chain, from protection of natural resources to processing and preservation of food products.

Agricultural engineers apply engineering to soil and water resource management; to equipment for planting, cultivating and harvesting crops; to storage and hauling; and to processing systems which convert agricultural produce to foods, industrial chemicals, fibers and other products for people to use.

Here are some of the projects agricultural engineers are working on today.

Software Has a Few Bugs

Florida soybean growers can prevent pesticide waste and achieve a better kill by consulting the next-best thing to an entomologist—SOYBUG expert system computer program.

SOYBUG, devised by agricultural engineers in Florida, recommends the best pesticide brands and proven application techniques to control common soybean pests. Now, even growers with limited technical knowledge can have the advice of top agricultural specialists at their fingertips.

Wind Tunnel Feed

Farmers reap big savings by "manufacturing" their own super high-protein feed, thanks to a newly developed wind tunnel.

Agricultural engineers at the University of Guelph in Toronto, Ontario, have come up with a workable horizontal wind tunnel in which heavy alfalfa stems are separated from relatively lightweight leaves and leafstalks. The highly digestible, high-protein alfalfa leaves can then be fed to growing or producing animals. Waste is minimized by feeding the low-quality stems to such livestock as dry cows, who don't need the extra protein.

Showering Cajun Crawdads

Cleaning crawfish with a water spray creates a fresher, more attractive product that brings a premium price from fans of Cajun food.

Crawfish which have been purged to empty their digestive tracts typically sell for 10 to 15 cents more per pound than those that haven't been purged. Now agricultural engineers at Louisiana State University have discovered that a water spray is more effective than traditional soaking or flowing water purging methods. Spraying uses less water and reduces damage to the fish—producing top-quality seafood for popular Cajun cuisine.

Boot Up the Greenhouse

Greenhouses join the computer revolution with a system that regulates sunlight, ventilation and temperature through a portable personal computer.

Agricultural engineers at the University of Nebraska have developed a system of software and sensors that uses a personal computer to control the environment in an alpine-style greenhouse. Sensors measure sunlight, air temperature and soil temperature every three minutes. The computer can open and close windows, fire up a furnace and activate soil heating devices to keep temperatures from getting too hot or cold. If sunlight is too weak during the day, the computer turns on artificial light sources. The computer also records how often its systems are activated so that growers can keep an eye on its operations.

Excuse My Dust

An adapted burglar alarm keeps watch over poultry house dust levels to help turkey farmers raise healthier, more productive flocks and save on energy costs.

Heavy dust concentrations in turkey houses can lead to high mortality rates and low weight, but overuse of the mist foggers which control dust creates humid conditions in which bacteria thrive.

Now agricultural engineers in Virginia have redesigned an infrared burglar alarm to sense dust levels and activate the fogging system only when necessary.

This low-cost sensor helps growers save water and energy and maintains an environment for healthy, high-yield turkeys.

Photo by ASAE

Electric signals assist this agricultural engineer evaluate soil characteristics.

Get Prepared

Agricultural engineering schools are located at most of the land grant universities where both engineering and agricultural colleges exist.

To prepare for college, high school students should take mathematics, physics, chemistry, English and at least one foreign language.

The first two years of college consist of courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, design and mechanics. Students should also take courses in natural sciences, English and social studies.

In the last two or three years students apply the laws of engineering to food and agriculture.

Agricultural engineers find a farm background helpful. More useful is an interest in mathematics and the biological sciences and the ability to analyze problems and to make correct judgments.

All engineers should be able to explain their ideas both in speech and in writing. They must be creative in order to come up with answers to troubles that crop up in their work. Mechanical aptitude is important.

For further information, contact the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 2950 Niles Road, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085. •••

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1988 REFERENDUM ON THE BEEF CHECKOFF PROGRAM

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- Our money is invested in solid programs of promotion, research consumer education and producer information

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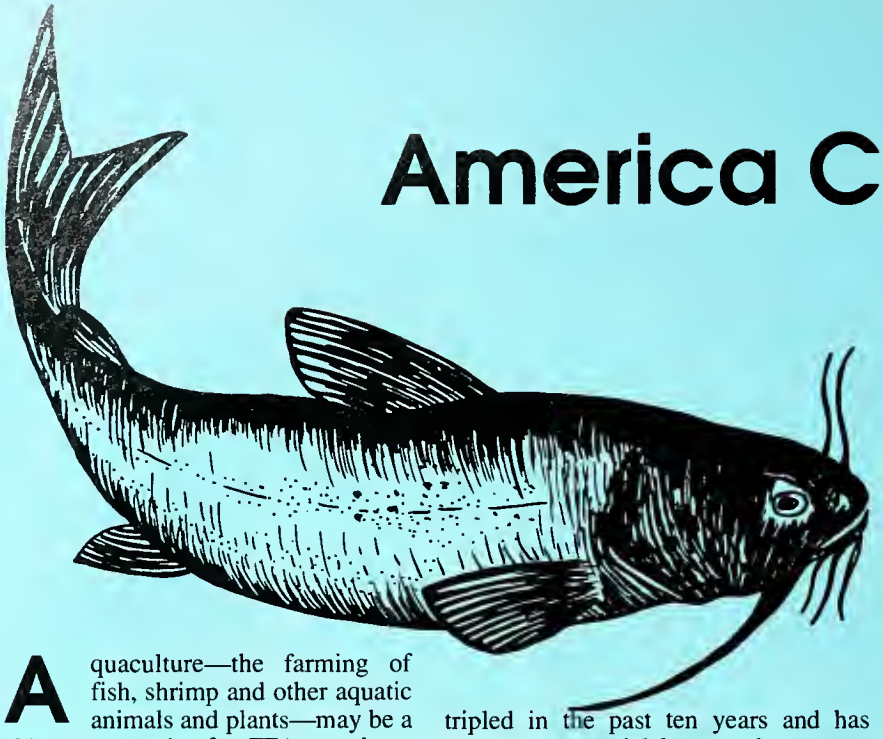
For more information about the Checkoff contact your State Beef Council

America Catches on



Aquaculture—the farming of fish, shrimp and other aquatic animals and plants—may be a golden opportunity for FFA members. Aquaculture has become a dynamic and growing segment of the American economy and a lot of big businesses, like Ralston Purina and Campbell Soup, are in the field.

Though it might be hard at first for agriculturists to think of fish or seaweed in terms of crops and dollar per acre yields, it might be worth trying. Aquaculture can be a profitable addition to a farm's operation or the basis of a new farming venture.

All farmers, whether consciously or unconsciously, manage water resources as part of their business. By employing some form of aquaculture, these water resources may be the source of direct income as well. Aquaculture can also be the basis for a second career and is more compatible with agriculture than many of the other second careers pursued by young people.

The Plan

Congress recognized the potential of aquaculture in its National Aquaculture Act of 1980 and the National Aquaculture Development Plan (NADP) of 1983. When the plan was written, aquaculture accounted for over 40 percent of oysters, most of the catfish and crawfish, and nearly all of the rainbow trout consumed in the United States. There's also been a lot of work done recently with marine shrimp, particularly in Hawaii and the Gulf Coast states. United States aquaculture production in general has more than tripled in the past ten years and has enormous potential for growth.

The reasons for Congress's interest in aquaculture still remain. Americans are eating more and more seafood. We ate a record 14.5 pounds per capita in 1985, up from 13.6 pounds in 1984 and 11 pounds in 1968. Most experts think that Americans are eating more seafood for health reasons: it is high in protein and very low in fat. Traditional fisheries, though, are already strained to the limit so most of the fish we eat are provided by imports. Fisheries products represent the only deficit in U.S. food and agriculture trade. The deficit is immense: over $5.6 billion in 1985. Aquaculture may help reduce this deficit and meet the fish and seafood demand of an eager American public.

Still, how does aquaculture relate to farming? Anyone who's ever sat in a history class has heard that civilization essentially began when man abandoned herding and hunting for farming. Aquaculture stands now where agriculture did centuries ago.

Fortunately, with 20th century advances in information and technology, it will not be long before aquaculture in America shows enormous and profitable increases in production. In fact, many of the technical advances made in American agriculture can be applied to aquaculture. Many other countries depend on aquaculture for their supply of fish. Half the fish eaten in Israel, over a quarter of the fish eaten in China and India, and about a tenth of the fish eaten in Japan come from aquaculture.

Aquaculture may help reduce the U. S. trade deficit and meet the fish and seafood demand of an eager American public.

Some History

Like agriculture, aquaculture has been practiced worldwide for centuries. The ancient Greeks and Romans maintained fish in ponds as did the Polynesians and many countries in Southeast Asia. Historically, Java maintained 200,000 acres of ponds. Rough calculations show that about 500 million cubic yards of soil had to be removed—by hand—to make them. Egyptian pharaohs probably grew tilapia, a fish native to tropical Africa, which has gained worldwide attention recently as a hearty, good-tasting food source. In fact, some scholars think the apostles took tilapia from the Sea of Galilee and that the fish in the New Testament story of the feeding of the multitudes was tilapia. Tilapia is often marketed as St. Peter's fish, reflecting its Biblical origins. Archaeologists have found a Chinese handbook on raising carp dated 475 B.C. In India, kings and scholars alike supported aquaculture, keeping fish in tanks, lakes and rivers. Poems and books dated as early as 600 B.C. talk about the different fish and how to maintain them, describing methods still in use today.

Fish Efficiency

One of the methods still in use is called polyculture. Farming on land is two-dimensional. Although crops can be rotated, only one at a time can be grown in any given space. Aquaculture is three dimensional: water has a surface, middle

to AQUACULTURE

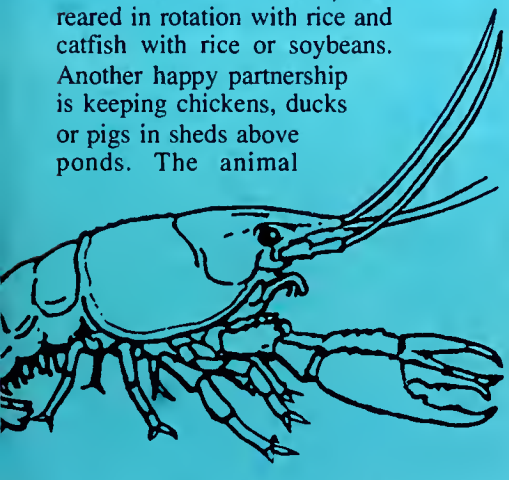
By Ellen Antill,
Oceanic Institute

Americans are eating more fish and seafood but U.S.producers aren't meeting the demand—yet.

and bottom. Multiple crops can be grown in a pond: shrimp on the bottom, fish in the middle and aquatic plants on the surface. Fish wastes support the shrimp; fish eat the plants; and the plants grow on the nutrition provided by shrimp and fish wastes. Supporting all three crops doesn't use any more space or feed than supporting one.

Aquaculture and agriculture can go hand in hand. Aquaculture fits well with farming because there is no conflict in land use. Aquaculture is usually done in areas too marshy or salty for farming. In many cases, it's a perfect partnership where everything is put to use. For example, in Asia, rice paddies are flooded with tidal water which brings in young fish and shrimp. They are enclosed in the paddy where they feed on decomposing rice stalks. After the fish and shrimp are harvested and the paddy drained, farmers herd in ducks which feed on the fish too small to be harvested. The duck droppings fertilize the soil which has already been enriched with fish wastes.

In the United States, crawfish are reared in rotation with rice and catfish with rice or soybeans. Another happy partnership is keeping chickens, ducks or pigs in sheds above ponds. The animal waste fertilizes the pond naturally so fish are raised at no additional cost to the farmer.



Despite the large numbers of ponds and the many ingenious methods of farming aquatic animals, aquaculture has been a "throw-and-hope" operation until recently. Young fish were caught in the wild and thrown into the family pond. The farmer hoped they would grow and multiply enough to help feed the family. As seafood demand increased, however, scientists became interested in being able to control the lifecycle of fish and shrimp.

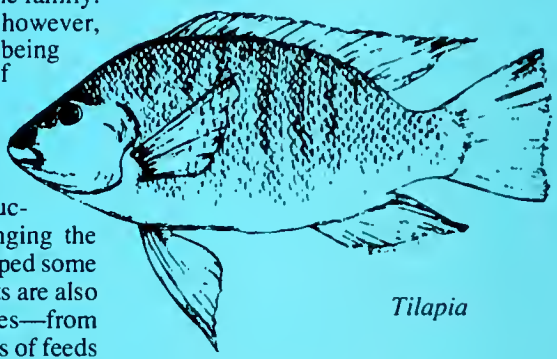
The ability to breed and rear an animal, as any farmer knows, is the essential first step to reliable full-scale production. Using hormones or changing the animal's environment have helped some finfish species spawn. Scientists are also looking at management strategies—from the economics of different types of feeds to the shape of the culture pond and the possibility of genetic engineering. Economists are looking at business strategies, from marketing to processing, transportation and distribution.

Many technical advances have occurred where there is a long history of aquaculture. The aquaculture production of both China and Japan is greater than that of the United States.

Scientists in the United States, however, have made rapid progress in developing new technology. For example, a shrimp production system with Taiwanese features was tested in Hawaii at the Oceanic Institute. Annual yield from this experimental round pond was 52,800 pounds of shrimp, almost an ounce each, per acre. This compares to an industry average figure of 4,224 pounds of shrimp per acre. At about five dollars per pound wholesale price, this represents a very substantial profit.

The Right System

The experimental round pond is called an intensive system. Many animals are raised in a highly structured environment. Special feeds are used and amounts are carefully controlled as is water quality. An intensive system takes up little land space but requires a lot of labor input. It is the system of choice in the Far East. Studies have shown it is likely to be the most successful system for U.S. commercial shrimp production.



Tilapia

South America has a very successful shrimp industry based on the extensive system. The animals are stocked into very large ponds and are left to grow on whatever feed the pond provides. The extensive system uses large amounts of land and little labor input.

You don't have to be a corporation or a big commercial enterprise to reap benefits from aquaculture. A recent USDA-funded survey of aquaculture in Hawaii found that the most successful aquaculture ventures were based on small farms which incorporated fish culture into their operations.

Aquaculture, like agriculture, provides other career opportunities. Water and plant chemistry, biology and genetics, veterinary medicine, feeds formulation and business management, to name a few, are support areas that need skilled hands and quick minds.

Aquaculture can be an important part of diversified agriculture and, according to the National Aquaculture Development Plan, an "attractive supplementary enterprise for many farmers, enabling them to maximize the income potential of land, labor and other resources." ...

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AMERICA'S TRUCK: BUILT FORD TOUGH

FFA Members are

"Made For Excellence"

New personal development conferences help members help themselves

By Cheryl Helmeid

"We're doing more than motivating members," says Perry Storms, manager of FFA's "Made For Excellence" conferences, "We're teaching practical skills that will help these members take charge of and direct their futures."

The Made for Excellence conferences were designed to develop a strong personal foundation for more of today's FFA members. These personal development conferences help members learn why the images they have of themselves will determine where they go in life. Their relationships with other people, their ability to stay motivated and remain positive during challenging times are all affected by the way they see themselves.

Over 900 FFA members and advisors have attended these two-day conferences held recently in California, Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa and Florida. Centrally located hotels in each state served as the gathering point for the conferences that began on Saturday morning and ended on Sunday afternoon. Members paid between $65 to 75 to attend depending on housing costs.

Past Washington Conference Program counselors conducted seven personal development workshops, each centering on a specific area.

The Made For Excellence conference differs from others because students are given the time to determine what they want to do in their lives, what is important to them and how they are going to go about achieving their goals.

As Bryan Higgins, Wisconsin state FFA reporter, said of the most recent Made For Excellence conference held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, in January, "This focuses only on you, building yourself, making you a better person. You have the whole two days to focus solely on yourself and improving yourself."

Who Am I?

The Wisconsin seminar opened, like the others, with a building exercise that illustrated the need for a strong foundation. Next it was time for the members to look inside themselves to identify their personality type and develop good self-images.

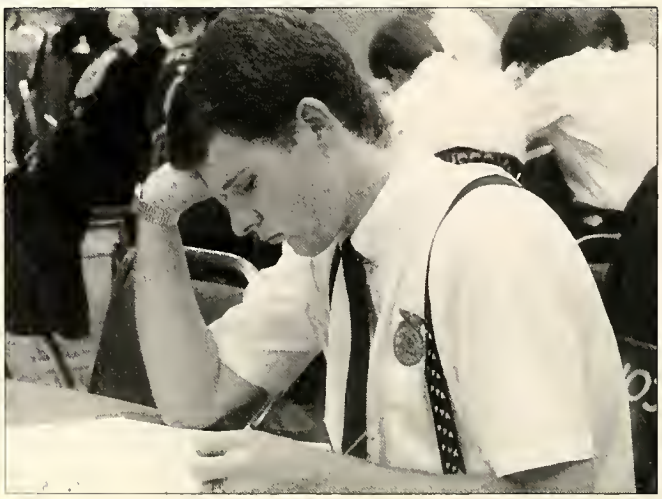
Members participated in the "Personality Finder" where many discovered aspects of their personalities they never knew about. Some found they had creative strengths while others identified themselves as objective thinkers.

Tricia Tesnow of the Wisconsin Rapids-Lincoln FFA Chapter said, "It told me I was a counselor and it made me feel really good about myself. It made me realize that I wasn't as bad a person as I thought I was."

"It showed me a lot about myself that I didn't really realize and it was true," commented Bryan Higgins, a member of the Antigo FFA Chapter. "I'm kind of a quiet person, not real outgoing all the time. It takes a while for me to get enthused about things and it's starting to change, especially with these workshops."

Along with identifying their personalities, members had the chance to de-

The Made for Excellence conferences offer FFA members, such as these members from Wisconsin, a chance to analyze relationships with others, left, and take inventory of personal goals and priorities. *Photos by Author*



velop their self-image and increase their self-esteem.

Peer Pressure

One of the main points of this conference was to realize that relationships with other people depend a lot on how you see yourself. It was stressed that an individual has to develop a good self-image before they can relate to others.

Students talked about their relationships with family, friends, teachers and God. They noted important people in their lives and why they admired them. They discussed making others feel good such as giving compliments and having a strong enough self-esteem to accept one.

A major topic of this workshop was "Peer Pressure." Students gathered into groups and discussed pressures from drugs and alcohol to cheating in school.

Jon Paul of the Medford FFA Chapter seemed surprised that the students were so open about their thoughts. He said, "I thought the people wouldn't speak out that much, but they just asked questions and people wanted to talk."

Jon noted that it is important for students to identify peer pressures. He said, "Peer pressure is a big part of a youth's life. Almost everywhere they go they're being pressured into one thing or another."

A Positive Attitude

Many members did not realize how their thoughts affect their lives each day. Just as they train their bodies physically, they learned they needed to do the same mentally.

During one workshop, FFA members discussed ways to develop positive attitudes. FFA members developed their personal motto to use every day.

Donna Smerchek of Columbus, Wisconsin, realized through this workshop, "I need a more positive attitude about myself and not be so particular in the things I do. I need to be easier on myself and do the best that I can in life."

The fourth workshop focused on motivation and pointed out that many people find it difficult to keep motivated daily. Motivation requires a conscious effort, it just doesn't happen. People have to plan to succeed or plan to fail, and the choice is up to each individual.

During this workshop, FFA members created their own "Made for Failure Days." Groups of seven to eight students created lists of everything that could possibly go wrong in a day.

"After that failure day we had, I know none of my days will ever be that bad," said Eric. "Losing your keys is not that bad compared to what we came up with. On days when I get up in the morning and it's raining and gloomy, I'll look back at my failure day and say, 'This is nothing, I can handle it.'"

Besides creating a failure day, members also designed a perfect day where everything went right. Eric said, "Right now, I have something to strive for to make that perfect day. I've got one semester left in school and I'm working toward that day for the rest of my senior year."

The Plan

On the second day of the conference, FFA members spent their time setting goals and determining their own paths.

Before their goals could be set, however, they needed to take inventory of themselves so their goals would be in tune with their current situation. Students participated by rating themselves in the "Wheel of Life" in the areas of friends, family, FFA, physical and mental health, morality and school. After they rated themselves, they created their own "Wheel of Life" to see if their lives were balanced.

Todd Kronberg of the Columbus FFA said, "You find your strong points where you spend a lot of your time. I found myself spending a lot of time with the FFA instead of with school and family. I feel it's very important to have all those things in balance to be a really good person."

After the members identified their strengths and weaknesses in the various areas of their lives, they began to set the goals they wanted to achieve.

...Relationships with other people depend a lot on how you see yourself.

Conference manager Perry Storms challenges FFA members to develop their self-confidence by capitalizing on their strengths.

Bryan Higgins noted, "I'm trying to make a decision about college and it (the goal-setting process) is really helping me right now."

Time for Action

The final workshop helped FFA members put their goals into action. They identified their goals, when they would complete them, how they would benefit, obstacles to overcome and how they would accomplish them.

Todd Kronberg was one of those members who created his own plan of action. Todd said, "I've decided this weekend that I want to run for state (FFA) office this coming year. I feel that goal setting helped me decide that I do want to run and it will help me to be a better officer."

Wisconsin's State FFA President Ed Peck, who has reached many of his goals, said the Made For Excellence conference helped him to recall some of his goals.

He said, "It helped me renew how to set goals, how to work toward things you really want, how to become a better individual when working with other people. It's nice to be reminded of the qualities we need to possess every day." •••

Don Skinner, Pawnee, Illinois farmer: "We'll never know exactly how may lives Breaking New Ground will touch."

They're

Breaking New Ground

for farmers with disabilities

Across the nation this month farmers will jump on their tractors, hook up their plows and planters, and head for their fields.

But try to imagine performing this simple farm activity from a wheelchair. Or with only one arm or leg. It's a tough challenge — for some, nearly impossible. But many farmers want to farm despite disabilities.

And that's why the phone in the Breaking New Ground office is ringing.

Every time Terry Wilkinson answers these calls — there were 1,200 last year alone —he helps a disabled farmer continue farming. Wilkinson is project coordinator for Breaking New Ground, a nationwide program designed to assist physically handicapped farmers who want to continue farming and ranching. The program is headquartered at Purdue University's Department of Agricultural Engineering.

It was a phone call which launched Breaking New Ground back in 1979. A farmer with a serious physical handicap contacted Bill Field, an ag engineering professor and extension safety specialist, seeking information on modifying his machinery to enable him to continue farming.

"The farmer needed help on some things he could do to make it easier for him to farm," says Field, who acts as Breaking New Ground's Project Director. "I began to check around and realized there weren't that many materials available for that kind of thing."

Field received seed money from John Deere to explore further. He discovered a great void in technical information, pamphlets, or research available specifically for people with disabilities who want to continue farming or ranching.

Today Breaking New Ground is a clearinghouse of information for disabled farmers. It handles phone requests and produces a newsletter which reaches 1,700 disabled farmers and nearly 3,000 others interested in the BNG work. The newsletter contains information from farmers with disabilities who have made machinery modifications, such as tractor lifts. Field says such stories and pictures help others solve their own problems.

Field, a national farm safety authority, has held over 30 nationwide workshops for farmers with disabilities.

"What we've become now is sort of an Ann Landers, an extension program for farmers with disabilities," says Field. "There's no other place that has really tried to pull this information or expertise together."

Wilkinson, 25, adds, "Many rehabilitation agencies don't have any idea how to help farmers modify equipment." As BNG project coordinator, he answers mail, takes care of publication orders, and handles the waves of phone requests.

Get the word out

"Last year out of 170,000 farm and ranch related injuries, at least 3400 resulted in permanent disabilities," Wilkinson says. "If there are 3,400 per year and we only have 1,700 people on our mailing list, we know there are many more out there who we're not reaching."

Field agrees. "We think that for every farmer who calls here, there are many more who won't call," he says. "Some are reluctant, some are embarrassed, or uncomfortable about their disability."

Breaking New Ground estimates as many as 25 percent of all farmers and ranchers are hampered by some type of health condition which may prevent them from completing a farm task. Many of these are minor, like back problems, allergies, or arthritis. Some are more severe—paraplegics, quadriplegics, and upper or lower limb amputees, for example. BNG deals with both groups, but the severely disabled have more challenges.

"Many parapalegics and amputees are still capable of farming with a few modificaions," Wilkinson says. "Not every disabled person out there can farm. But those who can, we're trying to help by making their work site accessible."

The program has helped disabled farmers with shop designs and electric outlets. It has collected ideas on hitching equipment, ATVs, gate openers and ways to handle livestock. They've helped blind farmers find specially-trained dogs and searched for the best make of outdoor wheelchair. Research with amputees and artificial limbs resulted in a video titled, "Farming with an arm amputation." The collection of information just keeps growing larger, as does their list of farmers the program has helped.

Farmers help each other

Just ask Don Skinner, a Pawnee, Illinois, farmer. He was looking for information after being injured falling from a grain elevator in 1980. He read about a Breaking New Ground workshop in a newspaper. Since then his own tractor and combine modification ideas have appeared in the newsletter.

"A lot of people who have read the articles call me and ask for ideas," says Skinner. "It's a real beneficial program —we'll never know exactly how many lives Breaking New Ground will touch."

Field says FFA members and instructors can help by telling others about Breaking New Ground. "I encourage any FFA member or ag teacher that reads this story to write to us. We respond to everyone who writes." His address is Breaking New Ground, Purdue University, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Engineering Building, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907. •••

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FFA In Action

Keeping accurate records of receipts from large chapter sales programs is an important responsibility for Bradley members.

Cash Crops All from Under Glass

The Bradley FFA in Cleveland, Tennessee, utilized two greenhouses and a nursery constructed by the membership to produce the following: 25,000 vegetable plants; 24,850 bedding plants; 1,250 poinsettias; 220 roses; 650 hanging baskets; and 300 one-gallon shrubs.

The chapter's 194 members were involved in planning, producing, advertising and marketing the crops. All crops were merchandised and sold on campus by FFA members. The chapter plant center is operated and managed six days per week by FFA members. Members also care for plants on all weekends during the school year. The emphasis is on quality plants and personal service.

Chapter earnings were used for state and national conventions, Washington Leadership Conference, FFA banquets, awards, team events, seminars, luncheons, breakfasts, activity point trip to Six Flags over Georgia, tours, truck, insurance, international travel, FFA promotional supplies, scholarships, FFA meetings, cookouts, leadership camps, record books, notebooks, degree pins, greenhouse supplies, office supplies and charitable contributions. *(From National Chapter Award application)*

Taste of TV Stardom

What's it like to appear in a television commercial? Lights are glaring. The director is shouting your name. The camera lens is focused on you.

"At first I didn't know what to do," says Wanda Carper, a high school junior from Ronks, Pennsylvania. "They told us over and over to 'just act natural.' When I finally relaxed, I really had fun."

She was one of the FFA members from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who participated in a television commercial sponsored by the Agricultural Division of the Ciba-Geigy Corporation. The 30-second spot promotes rural youth and a hopeful future for American agriculture.

The young people who were selected had to audition in front of a group of television producers. They were chosen on the basis of their acting ability and relative ease in front of the camera.

The FFA and agricultural experiences of the actors made the work easier for the students. One part of the commercial—a cattle-showing scene—required skills they gained through years of actual experience in the show ring.

"The steers kept it interesting," says Rob Rush, a junior from Strasburg FFA Chapter. "It was a real challenge to keep everyone in one place for the shooting. We all got stepped on a few times."

According to Fred Weaver, another FFA member/actor in the cattle-showing scene, that portion of the film work "took forever," due to temperamental animals placed in an unfamiliar situation.

"You could tell the crew was from the city," he chuckled. "I don't think they realized that steers aren't like dogs. The toughest job I had was keeping my steer in line."

The "rural youth" commercial, which airs throughout the winter months, features farm-raised young people of all ages doing ordinary "kid stuff": playing basketball, doing chores around the farm, showing cattle, meeting friends for a night out. The spot is part of a series of TV commercials sponsored by Ciba-Geigy since 1982 that supports the work of the American farmer.

Cameras and crew members moved into the rural Pennsylvania countryside to film the "rural youth" television commercial. In this photo, the crew prepares to shoot a scene of a girl painting the side of a barn.

"This TV spot tells farm kids not to be pessimistic about agriculture. There is a future there. Another important goal is to show the non-farm public that rural youth are no different than their city cousins. The teens who particated in this comercial are enthusiastic, bright individuals both on and off camera, who show a real commitment to agriculture."

The Talk of the Town

In one week, activities for the Hidden Valley, Oregon, Chapter had FFA members participate in the "Talk of the Town" program, present a parent orientation meeting, help deliver and take care of a litter of pigs and help decorate the high school.

On Tuesday morning, December 8, seven members of the chapter participated in the "Talk of the Town" program aired on station KAGI. These members were chapter President Denise Kuboushek, Vice President Matt Charley, Secre-

tary Tricia Sorenson, Reporter Tim Bowden, Ag I President Mike Yunker, Vice President Marc Bartlett and Secretary Rennee Schick. They talked about vocational education and the FFA.

On Tuesday evening the chapter held a special orientation meeting for all chapter members' parents. The purpose was to offer the parents a firsthand look at how our chapter is run. During the course of the meeting, members discussed upcoming activities and fund raisers.

Matt Charley and Tricia Sorenson ran a mock livestock judging contest in which most of the parents judged one class of market hogs, one class of market lambs, one class of dairy goats and one class of steers. One parent surprised everybody by getting a perfect score. The night was topped off with refreshments provided by chapter members.

On Thursday, December 10, the FFA members were called to the Ag Barn before first period because there was a litter of pigs being born. Mr. Bickle, the chapter advisor, had arranged to have a sow, that was pregnant, brought to the barn a few days earlier so chaper members would be able to particpate in the process of caring for newborn pigs.

On Friday, December 11, chapter members and members of the student government class had a "swag" party. They made over 50 swags of evergreen boughs and hung them in each of the classrooms and in the different offices as well as the commons. *(Tim Bowden, Reporter)*

Floating Promotion for the FFA and Vo-Ag

The Adair County, Kentucky, Chapter participated in the county's fourth annual Bell Pepper Festival parade. The chapter has participated each year and this year won the Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award. The theme for FFA's float was Diversified Agriculture with exhibits of ag production, mechanics and horticulture. There were 11 members, the sweetheart and 7 officers riding the float. *(Dallas Eaton, Reporter)*

Safety with the Spooks and Goblins

On Halloween the Sheridan, Oregon, FFA sponsored a "safe Halloween" party for children 12 years old and younger. We had a tremendous turnout of over 100 children.

The freshmen FFA members had a haunted house and Katie Meyer had a fortune-telling booth. There were apple bobbing, a jack-o-lantern coloring contest, pin-the-hat-on-the-witch, and safe trick-or-treating in the school halls.

The purpose of the party was to provide a safe place for children to go and have fun on Halloween. The chapter members felt the purpose was accomplished and plan to do it again next year. *(Melissa Cooke, Reporter)*

Battling a Coyote

When Derek Hyche, a member of the Jasper, Alabama, FFA Chapter went deer hunting with his dad this year, he may have taken Dad's advice literally.

They were bow hunting and decided to change locations since their morning had not even brought any deer in sight. They found a small pond where the bank was covered with tracks of animals coming for water. They spotted deer, turkey, raccoon and coyote tracks.

Derek's dad suggested that he should hunt there for the rest of the day and reminded Derek that if he stayed quiet enough, something might come by for water. Then his dad left for a better hunting spot of his own.

Derek sat still in the spot he had decided was the best vantage point for any game that might come by.

Suddenly, he felt a pain in his right leg.

Without warning, a coyote was on top of him and dragging him down into a ditch. His first reaction was to get the thing off him and so Derek grabbed the coyote around the neck and squeezed.

Since he was without his knife, the only other weapon Derek had was an arrow in his bow. He used the arrow to try to stop the animal's attack, but it only injured the coyote.

(Continued on Page 44)

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And when the arrow hit the coyote, the animal went for Derek's throat. Luckily Derek was able to lift the animal off of him and throw it into the woods. It landed running and took off.

Derek was able to get to his dad in a short time and they rushed back to Jasper. After some cleanup from where the razor-sharp arrow had cut his hand and from the teeth marks and torn flesh where the coyote had bitten through his hunting thermals, Derek was not seriously hurt. Dad shared that it took a while to get Derek calmed down after the incident. Derek had to undergo a series of the new type of rabies shots during the next six weeks.

Derek is chapter reporter for the Jasper FFA at Walker High School, but we got the story from the coverage in his local newspaper, the *Daily Mountain Eagle*.

Senatorial Spokesman

Kentucky State Senator Joe Wright spoke to the East Hardin FFA Chapter at their December meeting. Senator Wright is a former Kentucky state FFA treasurer.

He gave us his views on agriculture and the 1988 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Senator Wright is the only full-time farmer in the State Senate.

Mr. Wright, who is the Democratic floor leader, said, "Fewer FFA members actually live on farms than when he was in high school, but it is still important for the members to develop an appreciation for agriculture." *(Jerry T. Mills, Jr., Reporter)*

Greenhand Training Team Invades Missouri

Each year there are seven Greenhand Conferences held in Missouri as a joint effort between state sponsors and the State Department of Education.

Tipton, Missouri, sent 15 FFA members to Warrensburg for their conference and a chance to meet and visit with the six newly elected national officers. The Greenhand Conferences are the first major activity after their election for the National FFA Officers.

The meeting was opened with the area officers. The national officers then presented a skit on the value of the FFA and what the FFA can do for you.

The Greenhands in attendance were then assigned to six different groups for group sessions with each of the National FFA Officers. After the small group sessions, the members then reassembled for one final main session.

During these sessions the vocational agriculture instructors met for a meeting with the state supervisor.

The State Department of Education speculates that over 2,000 Missouri FFA members will be able to visit with the National FFA Officers during the conferences. *(Jeane Engelmeyer, Reporter)*

Adopt-A-Highway

The Calallen Chapter in Corpus Christi, Texas, cooperates with the highway department in their Adopt-A-Highway program. The chapter officers and members pick up litter on a 2-mile stretch of highway every two months. This project enabled the chapter to cooperate with state and local agencies, in order to provide a service, save taxpayers money and instill a sense of pride and ownership of our community and state.

Giving a Hand to the Deaf

Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor, sent a letter in October, 1987, to all chapters inviting them to attend the 60th National FFA Convention in November of 1987. One line of his letter stood out—"In education, milestones come infrequently and deserve to be recognized." As Dr. Case promised, the convention was "an important learning experience and an extraordinary celebration!"

Among the nearly 20,000 high school students at the convention this fall, three were from Walla Walla, Washington: Julie Nordheim, reporter; Lester Literal, president; and Merritt Holloway. Merritt, a second-year member of FFA, happens to be deaf. He requested interpreting services to be able to attend the major convention sessions.

This year was one of those educational milestones to be celebrated—as Janet Bartlett visually interpreted main convention speeches given by Bonnie Guiton, Lee Iacocca, George Bush, William Bennett, Robert Dole, Miss America and Roger Staubach. National President Kevin Eblen's speech and the other national officers' retiring addresses were made visible for a student who listens with his eyes.

Apparently, this was the first time a sign language interpreter had been requested for FFA's National Convention. Merritt is very interested in letters from any other FFA members, state and nationwide, who are hearing-impaired or deaf. (Merritt Holloway, 3030 Brisbane, Walla Walla, WA 99362.)

Merritt's request was made possible through cooperation between state departments of education in Washington and Missouri.

A Gift of Plants

It's not just their green thumbs, but their warm hearts that have earned the juniors and seniors in Sylvania's horticulture program one of this year's Ohio Youth Recognition Awards from Governor Richard Celeste.

The Sylvania FFA was one of only 24 students or student organizations to win this year.

Specifically, they have won the honor for their community participation during the past year. FFA has donated more than $7,000 worth of plants and materials on projects done for senior citizen

ter, the Toledo Zoo, the sisters of Lourdes College, the handicapped at Sunset House, the Junior League's charity auction, Wildwood Preserve Metropark and other community groups and organizations.

Chapter members operate a greenhouse at Southview High School, engage in a limited number of commercial landscaping projects each year and operate a seasonal retail business, all in addition to the special community service projects that they do.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Training Sessions

The chapter officers of Antelope, Arizona, FFA in Wellton held the second annual junior officer training seminar.

It was put on to help teach us junior officers what is needed to be a good officer. It also gave the chapter and junior officers a chance to get to know one another better.

There were several different sessions held on communications, responsibility and trust. Communications was put together with trust in this special session. The chapter officers blindfolded the junior officers and led us in many directions. They gave us commands to walk, jog, turn in any sort of direction and, hoping that was in front of us. In an officer team we have to learn how to trust one another in any way necessary. We all enjoyed this special session.

Another session on communications was a peanut butter and jelly game. A junior officer was blindfolded while describing how to properly make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. While the junior officer gave directions, the chapter officer was doing what he said. Rusty learned that his description didn't turn out like he really wanted it to. We all felt that this session was something that could have happened to anyone who wasn't describing it properly.

The next session was one that should always come to mind in an officer team—teamwork. The chapter officers set this up for us to teach us how important teamwork really is. We all had a lot of fun trying to figure out the clues. When we read the next clue, we all had to be there to hear it and figure it out as a team. Then, finally, we found the treasure which was a bag of candy.

The next session was role-playing to teach us about responsibility. Each officer paired up with a junior officer in a problem situation. We learned how to deal with them. Two topics were officers talking behind each other's back and drinking or bad conduct while wearing an FFA jacket.

Another session was on learning how to speak in front of people. Our shyness went away and the presentation overall went pretty well. After our presentation, the chapter officers gave presentations.

We felt the hard work and long day was worthwhile. *(Junior Chapter Officers)*

They Sold the Hats Off Their Heads

In December, the farm management club of the Montgomery County, Ohio, Joint Vocational School's FFA held their sixth annual Charity Hat Auction for the Ronald McDonald House located in Dayton, Ohio.

We sold 200 items including hats, gloves, pens, paperweights, a bootscraper, jackets, mugs and many other things. We raised over $1,630. This auction could not have been successful without the continued support of the local, state and national agribusinesses. *(Gary Filbrun, Reporter)*

A Variation on Animal Agriculture

While in Ohio, Dunn LeDoux, national FFA vice president, visited the Northwest Career Center near Columbus and toured the animal production and management class. He was able to observe students grooming dogs, cleaning cages and feeding animals. He also was able to hold a rabbit, snake and talking bird.

Before his stop at Northwest, Dunn spoke to schools from all around Ohio to give a presentation on making the most out of life, setting goals and striving to accomplish these goals. He suggested members should "not worry about failing because people will not remember you for your failures but will remember you for your accomplishments."

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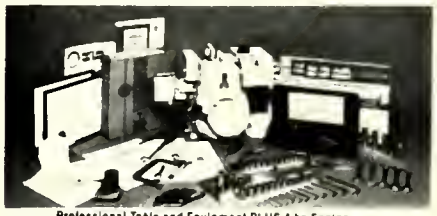

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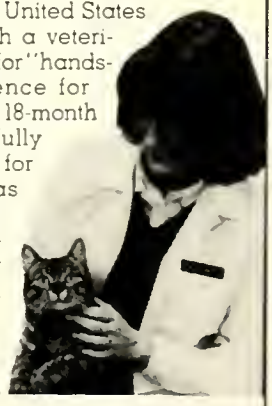

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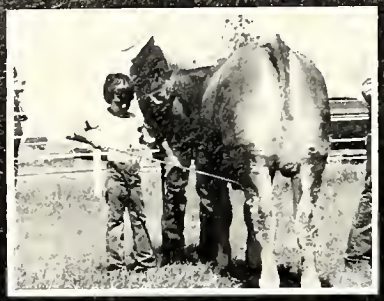

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FFA In Action

National Officer Action

Robert S. Kerr, III, Oklahoma's lieutenant governor, met with state and national officers of the FFA when the national officers were in Oklahoma to conduct five leadership workshops for sophomore FFA members from across the state. From left, Jim Evans, state vice president; Bill Hollis, national vice president, Illinois; Terri Lynn Hames, national vice president, Oklahoma; Lt. Gov. Kerr; Scott Stewart, state vice president; Shane Stewart, state president; and Shawn Sparks, state vice president.

While the officers were in Kansas, they called on Governor Mike Hayden. From left, are Dr. Lee Droegemueller, commissioner of education; Dean Prochaska, director of vocational education; Dr. David Depue, executive director of the Advisory Council for Vocational Education; Justin McKee, state president; Mickey McCall and Dunn LeDoux. Dunn and Mickey were both made honorary U.S. marshalls of Dodge City, Kansas, also when they met Miss Kitty of the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City. They wore the law badges on their jackets only briefly since badges in Dodge City are mainly used for targets. The national officers were in Kansas for sophomore leadership workshops and had time to tour with the state officers to local sights.

My Turn

with

Mickey McCall

Our national officer team recently enjoyed one of the highlights of our year when we traveled to Japan, January 30 through February 9. It was fascinating to compare our country and a nation that's half-a-world away. This trip was also valuable because it instilled in us a deep appreciation of what we have in America.

One of the most intriguing things about the Japanese people is the amount of pride they have in their family heritage and history. No one would dare bring shame to his family. This, combined with severe punishment laws, makes crime rare in Japan. Unlocked bicycles are frequently parked on the sidewalks, stores are open for many hours and no one is afraid to walk alone in the cities at night.

However, because of this intense pride, many Japanese teenagers feel a tremendous amount of pressure to be successful in high school, college and in the job market. Japanese high schools are among the most academically demanding in the world and students must pass rigorous final exams on a variety of subjects, including English. This loyalty and pride carries over into the work force.

Whereas Americans may change jobs five or six times in their lifetime, most Japanese spend their entire careers with the same company.

One highlight of our trip was the weekend that we spent with different host families in southern Japan. Staying in a hotel room in Tokyo or Kyoto is far different from actually living with a family. The family I stayed with lived in the mountains near Nara, a large city known for its Buddist temples. The father was a fruit farmer who grows apples, oranges, plums and kiwis on the steep mountainsides near the family's rural home. He owned two hectares (about 5 acres), which is a considerable amount of land to own in Japan.

The family house stood on a mountaintop overlooking a beautiful valley and terraced hillsides covered with small fruit trees and towering stands of bamboo. This was a typical Japanese dwelling—small, but efficient—with practically no furniture.

The weather in Japan is very similar to the weather in America. In February, it is fairly cold and we saw frequent snow, yet the house I stayed in had no indoor heat. Whenever we talked or ate a meal, we sat on the floor around small tables with quilts attached around them. We pulled the quilts over our laps as we sat Indian-style. The tables had small electric heaters underneath them. These heaters kept my whole body warm, so I didn't realize how cold it was in the house.

I was amazed at how well I could communicate with the people, and yet none of us could speak each other's language. My family knew a few words of English; I knew exactly five words of Japanese, but with a small dictionary and a lot of hand motions, we actually "talked" for several hours. My family seemed to enjoy pictures of the United States, and some picture books of North Carolina and the Appalachian mountains. They seemed delighted to find that I lived in a region similar to their own mountainous area. Although the stay with my host family was brief, I feel that, through them, I experienced Japan as few people do.

As we traveled through Japan, we were amazed at the number of people who not only spoke English, but knew a great deal about our country. One evening in Tokyo we met two college students on the street, walked to a nearby restaurant and talked for over an hour about school, music, food, sports—just anything concerning our countries and young people. Many people were familiar with American current events, including the presidential races.

Whether we were talking with college students, high school FFJ members, or seven-year-olds, the officer team concluded that one of the most rewarding experiences of the trip was being able to communicate with young people from all over the world.

Until we meet again, sayonara. •••

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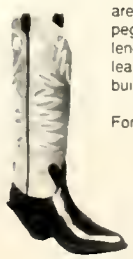
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Joke Page

The man fidgeted in his seat while the banker reviewed his loan application. *"Your assets seem to be in order,"* said the banker. *"Tell me about your liabilities."*

"No problem," said the fellow, *"I can lie with the best of them."*

Christine Richardson
Salem, Oregon

As the cashier totaled the farmer's purchases, she asked, *"Do you wish to charge?"* Looking at the amount, he answered, *"No, I think I'll surrender."*

Rob Cottle
Rexburg, Idaho

Said one man to another, *"I'd say I am pretty fit for a man of 70. First thing in the morning, I bend down and touch my slippers 50 times. Then, if I feel like it, I get out bed and put them on."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
Bowen, Illinois

"What a nightmare! Our television broke and all I had to read was school books . . . !"

Among the spectators at a bullfight in a Mexican border town was a real cowboy. The fight progressed to where the bullfighter showed perfect skill working the fierce bull. The bull charged. The matador waved his red cape at the bull over and over, always missing his deadly horns by inches.

The cowboy had enough. When there was the slightest bit of quiet from the crowd, he yelled to the matador, *"Podner, you ain't ever gonna get him in that sack if you don't hold it still."*

Patrick Johnson
Hope, Arkansas

A man went to apply for a job as a deputy sheriff in his hometown. The sheriff said, *"I'll have to ask you a few questions. What days of the week start with 'T'?"* The man said, *"Today and tomorrow."* The sheriff said, *"You'd better go home and study."*

The next day, the man came back. The sheriff asked, *"Who killed Abe Lincoln?"* The man said, *"I don't know."* The sheriff said, *"Well, go home and find out."*

The man went home and walked in the door. His wife asked, *"Did you get the job?"* He replied, *"I guess so, they've got me working on a murder case already."*

Dave Sloan
Andover, Ohio

Mom: *"For once I'd like to come into the kitchen and not see you digging through the refrigerator."*

Son: *"Try whistling as you come down the hall."*

Danny Dorris
Maricopa, Arizona

At my work the coffee machine became sort of a bulletin board. One day someone taped a message up saying, *"Red convertible, license number G-1448 is leaking oil."* Someone else taped a sign under it saying *"Fortunately, this machine is recycling it."*

Jason Baenen
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Jim: *"Mom, may I go out to play?"*

Mom: *"What? With those holes in your socks?"*

Jim: *"No, with the kids next door."*

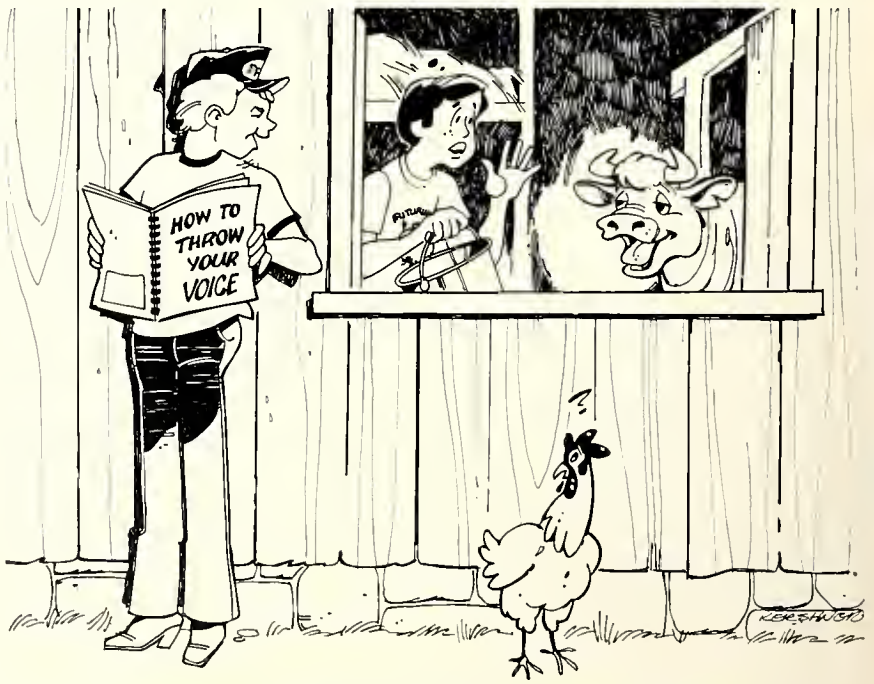
Jeff Walenski
Green Bay, Wisconsin

The man was lecturing his daughter on snobbishness. *"Remember,"* he pointed out, *"we're all made from the same mold."*

"Of course that's true, Pop," the daughter replied, *"but some are moldier than others."*

Marguerite Reasner
Indianapolis, Indiana

Charlie, the Greenhand



"Lay a hand on me and I'll kick you out of this county."

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